



# VILLAGERS' SPEED CAMERA OFFER

Report by Jonny Drury

**FRUSTRATED** residents have offered to meet the cost of a £20,000 speed camera themselves because they are so fed up with motorists racing through their village.

The problem of speeding in Gobowen has reached new heights in recent months because of work on the A5/A483 at the Gledrid roundabout.

The work has seen the road closed overnight for six months with hundreds of vehicles diverted through Gobowen on a nightly basis.

The roadworks are due to finish this week but road safety campaigner Dot Basham said the problems caused by the heavy traffic flow through Gobowen, especially on St Martins Road in the village, proves more needs to be done. The Gobowen grandmother has led a community campaign which has already brought a pedestrian crossing and vehicle activated speed signs to the village.

## Answer

But she says the only long term answer to slow motorists down is a fixed speed camera on St Martins Road.

She said: "For six months we have had all this extra traffic coming through the village and the speed some are going is ridiculous. It is not just the recent roadworks. Every time there is a crash on the bypass the road is closed and the traffic is diverted through Gobowen and the speeding is terrible. The only answer is a fixed speed camera.

"If it is money that is the problem, there are people in the village willing to contribute to the cost. I gather the cost would be about £20,000 for a camera. There are villagers who have told me they would contribute while one resident said he would pay for it himself."

Mrs Basham last week wrote to North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson calling for him to put pressure on roads bosses for improvements.

Mr Paterson last week met Government road bosses to press for improvements to the A5/A483 and to argue for the route to be made a dual carriageway. Mr Paterson said an accident last week which left the carriageway closed between the Gledrid and Halton roundabouts near Chirk proves it is woefully inadequate for the traffic that it carries.

Meanwhile, a meeting of representatives from Highways England, the Welsh Office and local authorities was held last week to discuss the next phase of road improvements on the Chirk bypass. Chirk Town Councillor Frank Hemmings said: "Once the Gledrid improvements have finished they will be turning their attention to the Halton roundabout. We have to consider the impact that these protracted roadworks are having on Chirk and also the impact of accidents on the road. Local residents are bearing the brunt of traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles, diverted through the town. The traffic has been dreadful."

## It was alright on the knight at castle event



Days of knights and damsels in distress were remembered at Whittington Castle near Oswestry at the weekend. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

MEDIEVAL knights descended on a historic castle near Oswestry to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its restoration.

Whittington Castle hosted the event on Saturday and Sunday which saw The Knights in Battle Medieval Society, a specialist re-enactment group, spend the weekend at the castle.

Members of the group staged a 13th century foot tournament which saw knights in chain mail pitched against each other in single combat.

After fine weather on Saturday, conditions were tricky on Sunday, with heavy showers making it very slippery.

There were training fights without armour and some archery as well as camp cooks, who provided food for the knights.

Visitors also got the chance to get some hands-on experience of the weapons and armour used in the tournament.

Castle manager Sue Ellis said the appearance of the re-enactment group offered entertainment for all.

She said: "This was a new event for Whittington Castle. The group staged a 13th century foot tournament pitching knights against each other in a single combat for a prize of gold."

"Knights In Battle Medieval Society is a Sheffield based group specialising in bringing medieval history to life."

"Their goal is to produce an excellent appearance and a high quality of entertainment at public events."

"The society represents the household, that is the soldiers, captain, cooks, armourers and other camp-followers."

The re-enactment event is the latest in a series of events held at the castle which regularly puts on attractions for all the family.

And the knights are the latest notable visitors to the castle after a group of ghost hunters recently visited.

Bill Tabone, founder of the Australian Paranormal Group, flew from Melbourne to join local group Paranormal Friends at an investigation at the castle. The castle is said to be haunted and the paranormal investigators said the property lived up to its haunted reputation when they visited.

● Visitors – See Page 16

## HONOUR

### Knife campaign is nominated for international prize

A CAMPAIGN organised by an Oswestry company to reduce knife crime has been nominated for an international peace award.

The British Ironwork Centre's 'Save a Life, Surrender Your Knife' project has been nominated for a Rotary International award.

The campaign saw artist Alfie Bradley disinfect and blunt 100,000 knives from all 43 police forces in the UK to create a huge Knife Angel sculpture.

Families who had lost loved ones due to knife crime and violence were invited to engrave a message on blades which were included on the monument.

Clive Knowles, chairman of the British Ironwork Centre, said: "We are extremely proud to have been nominated for this award for our Save a Life, Surrender Your Knife project."

"We work closely with those who have been affected by knife crime and have launched a petition to ensure that the monument fulfils its destiny by being placed on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square. We hope it should have the loudest voice there and know it will be a huge focal point in raising awareness of this scourge on our streets."

The winner of the peace award will be announced at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod on Monday at its 70th anniversary opening concert.

● Astonishing – See Page 25

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Decision to come over air show future

A DECISION will be made in the next few weeks on the future of Welshpool's air show.

The show, run in conjunction with the town council, suffered from poor weather conditions this year and attracted crowds of under 3,000, despite in past years attracting up to 10,000 supporters.

Welshpool Town Clerk Robert Robinson said: "There will be probably be an announcement in two to three weeks when councillors have talked about the issue. We know numbers were down, but you have to get the weather and you can't control it."

## INSIDE

### Greta is made of the write stuff



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# Campaigners to march over maternity unit crisis

Report by Jonny Drury

**CAMPAIGNERS** in Oswestry have revealed details of a march to protest against the temporary closure of the town's maternity unit.

Services for women booked to give birth at Oswestry and Ludlow Midwife-Led Units (MLUs) are suspended until 8am on July 11.

Day services for expectant mother are continuing as normal.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust has, for a number of weeks, been affected by short-term and long-term sickness, which has led to the temporary suspension of some services.

Women booked to give birth at any of these affected MLUs who go into labour during the temporary suspension of services will be offered a birth at Shrewsbury or Wrekin MLU or the Consultant Led Unit at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

Campaigners in Oswestry say they are not happy about the situation and want to be heard.

They will be marching from Oswestry town centre to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen to protest against the situation.

The maternity unit is based at the orthopaedic hospital although it is run by Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust. The march will take place on July 9, leaving the Bailey Head in Oswestry at 10.30am.

Campaigner Liz Grayston said: "Details have yet to be finalised, but we will start at Bailey Head and it is anticipated there will be another start point in Gobowen, and maybe Whittington."

"We will be marching to the Oswestry Maternity Unit in Gobowen protesting at the current 'temporary' closure of our unit, and those at Ludlow and Bridgnorth, in order to prioritise the units at Telford, and at the proposed introduction of an on-call midwife system across rural Shropshire, in itself getting rid of hospital care after giving birth, and at the lack of public consultation of any of this."

"We're not happy and mean to be heard."

Anthea Gregory-Page, deputy head of midwifery at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), said: "I would like to apologise for any inconvenience. If any woman has any concerns we would encourage them to speak to their midwife."

## Singers happy to make a Joyful Noise at library



Members of the Joyful Noise Community Gospel Choir perform at Oswestry Library to entertain visitors

THE days of people having to be silent or speaking in a whisper in libraries have long gone.

In Oswestry there was plenty of Joyful Noise when a local community gospel choir paid a visit to the town's library.

The Joyful Noise choir is encouraging people to consider joining its ranks and, with the launch of TV show Pitch Battle recently, is expecting renewed interest.

The Joyful Noise Community Gospel Choir is based at Cabin Lane Church, Oswestry, but sees itself as a community and not a church choir.

David Bird, who leads the choir said: "We

are a group of people of all ages, at present ranging from 17 to 90.

"We enjoy getting together on a weekly basis to sing together and, from time to time, share our enjoyment with others in the community."

He said that no formal training or even an ability to read music is required to join the choir, simply an enjoyment of singing together.

He said: "We meet to practise most Tuesdays, from 7pm to 8.30pm in the school term and are always looking to recruit new members."

"The choir does not wish to be defined

solely as a gospel choir but embraces a variety of different styles of music.

"We sing at various local events with Christmas and Easter particularly busy times for us."

"In October, we'll be singing at our first wedding."

The choir members will perform at the Cabin Lane Church on July 8 when they will be joined by professional performer Rob Halligan. Tickets are £7.50 from Cabin Lane Church and Oswestry Christian Book Shop. Anyone interested can visit the choir's Facebook page or go along to Tuesday practice evenings.

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## Old hillfort is at centre of tourism bid

A NEW group has been set up to promote Oswestry as a tourist destination, capitalising on the appeal of Britain's finest hillforts.

The Oswestry Heritage Gateway says it wants to promote the historic, northern gateway to the town which takes in the Old Oswestry hillfort, Wat's Dyke, the Cambrian Railway, Park Hall, Whittington, and the surrounding countryside.

History stretching from Celtic Britain and Arthurian legends to Victorian industrial heritage and the world wars and the local countryside should be harnessed as a tourist attraction, the group says.

Spokeswoman Kate Clarke said: "The Oswestry Heritage Gateway is seeking to harness nationally important historical and cultural assets as a catalyst for new tourism and economic opportunities for the town and surrounding settlements."

She added: "It offers huge potential to reinforce the area's appeal as a visitor destination in its own right, by promoting the area to tourists who are already travelling along the A5 corridor to the World Heritage Site attractions at Chirk and onwards to North Wales."

A meeting will be held on July 10 at Hermon Chapel in Oswestry for those interested in getting involved in the new initiative.

The meeting starts at 7pm.

## Equality group backs screening

THE Oswestry Equality Group will be supporting the screening of 'The Divide' at Kinokulture Cinema, 9 Arthur Street, Oswestry, on Wednesday next week.

This film is based on 'The Spirit Level' by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. It shows how people from all backgrounds are affected by income inequality.

The film will be shown at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 and can be obtained from Kinokulture's booking office on (01691) 238167, or more information can be found on their website [www.kinokulture.org.uk](http://www.kinokulture.org.uk)

There will be discussion of the film after its showing.

Penny Rice, speaking for the Equality Group, said: "We really appreciate Kinokulture giving us the opportunity to allow everybody the chance to see this film."

# Bosses reluctantly agree to close pre-school base

Report by Jonny Drury

**A PRIMARY school has been forced to close its centre for pre-school children in order to cater for increasing numbers in the school.**

Woodside School in Oswestry, which currently has 560 pupils, took over the running of the Sure Start Centre, which provides 40 families with with daycare for two and three year olds, after Shropshire Council withdrew financial backing and the centre was left with a large deficit.

After deliberation, the governing body have made a difficult decision to close the services at the centre, after running at a loss for several years and being unable to make up the £60,000 shortfall.

The service will close on September 30 for babies to two years old, and from December 31 for two to three year olds.

The closure will bring with it the loss of nine jobs, however with further increases at the primary school, other opportunities will be available according to headteacher Rob McDevitt, who has apologised to the families affected.

He said: "Closing the Start at Woodside facility has been a hugely difficult decision to make, and we know that it will be unsettling for the 40 families who currently use the service. Woodside Primary School and the education of our pupils has to remain our core priority though, and with class numbers increasing year-on-year, and with no other funds likely to be made available, we have no choice but to divert the revenues we generate from breakfast, after-school and holiday clubs into the school itself.

"This will allow us to add the classroom space and teachers for two new Key Stage 2 classes, and will ensure that every pupil here receives the truly exceptional standard of education that they deserve.

"We are, of course, supporting our families, and our team fully at this time and in the weeks and months ahead."

When Start was launched in February 2006, it was funded through the Sure Start programme and was guaranteed financially by the local authority.

However the authority pulled the plug on funding in 2012, with the centre costing more to run than it brought in through revenue.

## New playgroup is off to great start



Four year old Charlie Willmott-Langston and seven-year-old Harry Willmott-Langston with their father Chris Langston

A FATHER and toddler playgroup, Skiddaddles, has been launched for men who want to join in the fun with their children in Oswestry.

The group has held its first meeting in the town.

It will initially be held once a month but could become more regular if it proves popular.

Skiddaddles was dreamt up by Chris Langston from Oswestry who said the idea grew from having to take his children to playgroups where he was the only man.

"Skiddaddles certainly isn't exclusively for fathers but we thought that they might like somewhere

where they know there will be other dads they can chat to," he said.

"Of course we won't turn mothers away, everyone is welcome," Mr Langston stressed.

The group's first meeting was held in the garden at the Kinokulture Cinema opposite Oswestry Library in Arthur Street, taking advantage of the fine weather.

Mr Langston said: "We had a storyteller from Skimming Stones Theatre Company.

"We made Father's Day gifts and we had heaps of fun with a pile of boxes, tubes and sticky things to create and play with outside in the

garden. We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone in our super generous community who have helped and supported us with the launch of Skiddaddles Father and Toddler playgroup."

"What an amazing community we live in."

The first session was free with a charge for next month's session of just £1.

That will include a drink and a snack for the children and tea and toast for dads.

People can visit Skiddaddles Facebook page for more information about the new group.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Village is all set for annual show

IT takes a lot of volunteers and hard work to put on an annual show – and this will be the ninth one in Middleton since it was revived in 2009, after a gap of 50 years.

This year's show will be on a slightly smaller scale and will be held in the Village Hall. The show committee felt they did not have enough offers of support to continue to put on the bigger show on the field.

This year's show, in the village of Middleton near Welshpool on the A458, will take place on Saturday, starting at 2pm, though class entries need to be dropped off between 9am and 11am, ready for judging.

Entertainment will include the children's entertainer, Professor Humo Magic and Punch & Judy, back due to popular demand. At 3pm the Middleton Fell Run will start.

### Couple open up the doors again

POPULAR Welshpool attraction No1 Church Bank opens its doors to the public for the final time this year on Saturday and Sunday.

For three weekends during the year local business couple Mel and Heather Parkes, who run Lamplite Antiques, open their home and garden twice for the National Garden Scheme and once a year for their own specific charity – the Lingen Davies Appeal. The couple recently received a community award from the town council for opening their home to the benefit of others.

As always there will be a selection of homemade cakes to be had with a tea or coffee. The garden will be open from noon till 5pm both days and admission is £3.50 for adults.

### New tower plans are submitted

NEW plans to improve mobile phone signal and introduce 4G to a remote area in Mid Wales have been submitted.

Telecommunications company Arqiva Ltd hopes to replace its existing communications tower at Grwn-oe at Llanwyddyn, near Lake Vyrnwy, with a 20-metre tower and new equipment.

It will bring enhanced 2G coverage and introduce 3G and 4G coverage to the area.

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Dame Stephanie Shirley

# Royal honour for former town student

A FORMER Oswestry schoolgirl who went on to become a multi-millionaire business tycoon and philanthropist has become a Companion of Honour in the Queen's birthday honours.

Dame Stephanie Shirley, or Steve as she likes to be called, is one of only 65 Companions of Honour.

The 83-year-old says she owes her success in life to her time spent in

Shropshire. She arrived in Britain as an unaccompanied child refugee from Germany in the Kindertransport at the onset of the Second World War.

She was a pupil at Oswestry Girls High School before going on to become one of Britain's finest businesswomen.

She found fame and fortune after setting up her own computer pro-

gramming company. She was named one of Britain's top scientists.

Dame Shirley was at one time said to be worth £150 million.

But she is no longer in the UK rich list having turned philanthropist and given away more than £50 million to good causes.

She returned to Oswestry in 2015 to speak at the Oswestry Lit Fest. She said: "When people ask me if

I love my adopted country I say yes, and that is based largely on the idyllic memories of Oswestry.

"I was able to grow up in safety - a quiet countryside where even outsiders like me could be confident that people in authority would do the right thing by me.

"My love for the town is clear in that we had a family cat called Oswald."

# Prestigious hospital looks to recruit nursing staff

Report by Jonny Drury

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital is encouraging future nurses to come forward ahead of a special recruitment day.

The award-winning hospital is appealing to nurses interesting in joining the theatres team or working as a ward nurse.

The recruitment day will be held on Sunday between 9am and 2pm when the hospital's main entrance will become a hub for visiting nurses to meet and have a chat with the teams. Experienced, newly-qualified and student nurses who are qualifying this year are invited to attend the recruitment day. Bev Tabernacle, director of nursing, is keen to see as many nurses as possible on the day. She said: "This is a fantastic place to be a nurse. We're looking for experienced or newly-qualified nurses to join our teams; we have a fantastic support framework for these nurses to support development and progression.

## Pubs set to serve again

TWO pubs are to reopen their doors in Oswestry.

The 16th century Black Gate pub and adjoining Smithfield bar have been taken over by the Horseshoe Inns and Taverns chain. It will mean new jobs for the town. Based in North Wales the company says it is pleased to have moved into Shropshire.

The two adjoining properties were knocked into one about five years ago. They have been closed for some time and there have been discussions about turning the properties into apartments. Spokesman for Horseshoe Inns and Taverns, Rachael Harries said the pubs were definitely not going to be apartments. "We are re-opening them as pubs and in fact will be splitting them back into two pubs," she said.

"The historic Black Gate will be more of a comfortable, food led pub specialising in cask ales." She said the pubs should be open towards the end of July.

"We want nurses who show compassion and exhibit the behaviours which will enable them to deliver excellent care to our patients. Full and part-time posts are available, we can also offer rotational posts to widen the experience of those nurses who may want to work with us.

"We advertise roles in the usual way on our NHS Jobs page all the time, but we wanted to meet as many nurses as possible through the day, and provide them with an offer of employment following assessment on the day through the 'one stop shop' day."

Sue Pryce, deputy director of human resources, added: "We have held a number of recruitment events in recent months and have found them to be a great way of showing what we do for staff in terms of careers and education. We always want to hear from potential staff, through the recruitment day or otherwise. There are always new opportunities appearing if you check the NHS Jobs page regularly."

## Sir John praises scheme



Sir John Timpson with Telford band Savannah who have been supported by the scheme AN entrepreneur who was the managing director of a major company by the age of 32, has cut the ribbon on a new youth business hub.

Sir John Timpson, knighted in the recent Queens Birthday honours, grew the family cobbler business into 1,850 shops including Max Spielman, Johnsons the Cleaners, supermarket concessions and Snappy Snaps after buying it back from a sell out following a family bust-up.

He praised the launch of the new Shropshire Youth Business Hub near Oswestry and the support the hub was giving to young people who wanted to start a business.

He also donated copies of his book, Keys

to Success, to fundraise for the project. The hub at the British Ironwork Centre is dedicated to supporting 18 to 30-year-olds, wanting to follow their dream and work for themselves.

The multi-millionaire businessman said his ethos included recruiting people with personality and giving shop colleagues control with management not giving orders but help and support.

He said: "The real evil of the last 50 years is how procedure, best practice and statutory box ticking have taken precedence.

"Regulations are getting in the way of inspiring children in school, treating patients in hospital and ignoring the needs of children in care."



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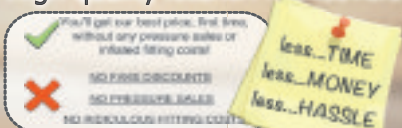
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# MP urges health bosses to get on with reform of NHS

Report by Jonny Drury

**A POLITICIAN is calling for NHS managers to set aside politics and start making decisions on the future of healthcare in Shropshire before the end of the year.**

After years of research and millions of pounds being spent, Future Fit, the body set up by health bosses to look at future health provision in the region recommended that a new emergency centre be built at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, alongside A&E services at Shrewsbury and Telford's Princess Royal.

After the recommendation was made, Telford and Wyrkin Council threatened to lodge a legal challenge to halt the proceedings.

A consultation is now taking place, and Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies is demanding a decision is made by the end of the year.

He said: "Over the last few years, discussions regarding NHS reform in Shropshire have been more difficult than nailing blanchmange to the wall. The interests of patients has not been put first.

"We all know that the NHS 'Emergency Services' in Shropshire, which also serves Mid Wales is in desperate need of reform.

"Partisan politics has frustrated this proposal, and it is utterly disgraceful that partisan politics has been put before patients. It must stop.

"I accept it's not easy to move forward, while there are individuals trying to frustrate progress.

"I've written to the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust asking that a target date be set for every stage left in the process. We should aim for a final decision before end of 2017.

"I also accept it is best if decisions on NHS reform are taken locally.

"But when my constituents' lives are being compromised, and put at risk, it becomes absolutely vital to reach a decision, removing whatever obstacles which put petty partisan politics before service to the public.

"It's time to get on with reform of the 'emergency services' that serve Shropshire and Mid Wales - and get on with it now."

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson met with Simon Wright, chief executive of Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust last week, and is hopeful building work will begin by the end of 2018 on an emergency centre in Shrewsbury.

Mr Paterson said: "He was very hopeful that building work for the new emergency centre will start towards the end of next year. There still has to be the a seemingly endless round of consultations. However Shropshire will be getting the first class emergency services that it deserves."

Concluding the inquest, Shropshire assistant coroner Joanne Lees said: "There is no evidence that the death was deliberate, and no evidence as to how she came to be in the canal.

"She was fully clothed, and was recovered with her glasses around her neck."

She died as a result of immersion in water, Mrs Lees said, who added on the balance of probabilities her death was due to an accident.

## Canal death tragedy was an accident

THE death of a 94-year-old former post-mistress found in the canal on the Shropshire border was an accident, a coroner has concluded.

Brenda Hemingsley was found by a dog walker on March 9 in the Shropshire Union Canal at Llanymynech, near to her home in Barley Meadows.

A post mortem carried out by Dr Nicholas Green gave a cause of death as immersion in water.

Her GP said Mrs Hemingsley suffered from oesophageal cancer and was in poor health.

The coroner read statements to the inquest stating Mrs Hemingsley spoke to her daughter the day before she was found, and had also spoken to her neighbours.

One neighbour, Angela Williams noticed her neighbour's lights were on at 4am in the early hours of March 9.

Michael Morris was walking his dog at 6.10am in the morning when he spotted a body in the water.

Concluding the inquest, Shropshire assistant coroner Joanne Lees said: "There is no evidence that the death was deliberate, and no evidence as to how she came to be in the canal.

"She was fully clothed, and was recovered with her glasses around her neck."

She died as a result of immersion in water, Mrs Lees said, who added on the balance of probabilities her death was due to an accident.

## Councillor's work recognised



Shropshire Council Chairman Ann Hartley presenting the award to David Lloyd MBE

A GOBOWEN man who has given more than 40 years of public service to Oswestry and Shropshire has been made an honorary alderman of Shropshire Council.

David Lloyd MBE, who stood down as a Shropshire councillor at this year's local elections but has carried on as a parish councillor to serve his local community, was given the title and presented with a certificate by chairman Ann Hartley at a special Shropshire Council meeting.

His local government career began in 1977 when he was first elected to Shropshire County Council, before being elected to Oswestry Borough Council in 2003 and onto Shropshire Council in 2009.

Councillor Lloyd held a number of positions during his time, including Leader of

Oswestry Borough Council, Chair of Shropshire Health Authority, Speaker and Deputy Chairman of Shropshire Council, and is an honorary life Governor of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society.

Mr Lloyd was part of a number of committees during his time.

At the meeting, the council chair said: "In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Shropshire Council can confer the title of Honorary Aldermen on former councillors who have rendered eminent service to the council.

"I can think of no-one more deserving of this honour than David Lloyd and I'm delighted that my fellow councillors have today admitted him as an honorary alderman of Shropshire Council."

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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

The sun came out, temperatures went through the roof, and once again our creaking rail network failed to cope with the "shock" change in conditions – on the very days that I was using the service. While I am only a casual user of the rail networks regulars must be at the end of their tether. Anything from leaves on the line to frozen points seem to have an effect but on June 19 and 20 it was the unexpected leap in temperatures which caused havoc.

A mid-afternoon trip from Welshpool to Kemple near Cirencester should have been a breeze but it turned out to be anything but with Arriva Trains' 2.55pm to Wolverhampton devoid of a breath of air – and with no refreshment trolley on board either. Distressed passengers received little comfort from the announcer's apology and it seems the problem was not just confined to my train with Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies forced to jump off his carriage due to overheating before it left Welshpool Station, just a couple of hours later. Tales of woe greeted travellers on the way to Gloucestershire and it wasn't just Arriva. Cancelled and delayed trains were the norm for the day with stories of broken down engines and overheated tracks and all because the sun came out.

The return trip involved an hour-long journey from Gloucester to Birmingham New Street with Cross Country Rail. The relatively new carriages were packed to the luggage rack, windows and doors were sealed and the air conditioning was broken. To be fair the driver was offering passengers the chance to get off and wait for another train but few were taking up the option. Surely in 2017 there can be no excuse. Franchises are won and lost on promises of quality and cost – who can offer the best service at the fairest price. Yet every time our unpredictable weather hits an extreme the poor passenger has to suffer. Arriva has apologised and promised to repair their broken trains but is that enough?

There was a bigger shock to come at my destination – the De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel – and it wasn't just the prices. I was one of over 150 guests to leap from our beds at 5.30am convinced our time had come, only to find we had been buzzed by an American B-52 Bomber which had taken off from nearby RAF Fairford. It wasn't an invasion by Donald Trump but simply part of a huge multinational exercise taking place over the Baltic Sea and hosted by the Commander US Naval Forces Europe, testing allied and partner maritime capabilities, including maritime security tasks. The frightening experience was the talk of the breakfast tables. You could have warned us Donald.



Pavarotti gave an emotional performance at Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod



Alfie Boe is one of many global stars who have appeared at the Llangollen event



Jools Holland has followed in Pavarotti's footsteps by appearing at the eisteddfod

# Pavarotti's emotional eisteddfod performance

**SUE AUSTIN reports on a performance which has gone down in Llangollen Eisteddfod folklore**

**HE was a worldwide superstar, arguably the best known tenor of his time.**

Luciano Pavarotti had sung in all the great opera houses of the world and to millions on television screens.

Yet it was an appearance in a tent-like structure in a small town in Wales in 1995 that had the great opera star struggling to cope with emotions and wiping away a tear.

For it was in that same town 40 years before and in a real tent that Pavarotti decided that he would pursue a career in music.

Pavarotti was just 19 and a trainee teacher when he first attended the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in 1955 with his father, Fernando, as part of the choir Chorus Rossini from Modena in Italy.

## Won

The choir won their competition, the young Pavarotti just a face in the line-up, billeted in a local home.

In July 1995, he returned to headline the week-long festival with a huge entourage including his own choir and orchestra and staying in a top hotel.

The security was, outwardly at least, even tighter than when the Queen had visited three years earlier.

He made two appearances on stage, one for the closing concert of the Eisteddfod but also in the days before as the Day President of the festival.

Chairman of the 1995 festival Gethin Davies was involved in the negotiations to bring the tenor back to the eisteddfod.

Mr Davies was a volunteer usher back



Pavarotti (circled) as part of the winning choir at the eisteddfod in 1955

in 1955 and admitted that he didn't recall the young Pavarotti.

"I kept a diary in those days and was looking through it recently and it just said, 'Male Voice Choir today and a choir from Italy won'," he revealed in 1995.

Things were very different for his second visit.

## Duty

"He accepted an invitation to be President of the Day, on condition that his father could share the duty," Mr Davies said.

Pavarotti told a packed audience: "Forty years ago, my God it seems to be just yesterday for me."

"I have done so many things."

"I always say to the journalists when they ask me what is a day more memo-

orable in my life, and I always say that it is when I won this competition because it was with all my friends."

He then called his father, tiny by the side of the great man, onto the stage and had to mop a tear away with his handkerchief in an emotional moment in front of the crowds.

The day of his concert saw the eisteddfod field sealed off to the public and the layout of both field and stage altered to accommodate his choir and orchestra.

Thousands of beautiful flowers also had to be stripped from the front of the stage by floral committee volunteers before the performance as Pavarotti feared the pollen would affect his singing.

Those lucky enough to get tickets for the auditorium filed into their seats but another 3,000 'promenaders' sat on pic-

nic blankets outside watching the performance on a big screen.

Security stewards stepped in when some people tried crawling under the tent to get a glimpse of the big man.

A volunteer steward from her local school in 1995 was Sian Eagar, who now works for the eisteddfod.

## Memorable

She said: "I feel very fortunate that, due to my family's association with the eisteddfod over many years I have had the opportunity to see numerous world class artists and Pavarotti was one of those memorable events."

"There was a real buzz and excitement about his visit and I remember the field and pavilion being packed full of people."

"The evening concert is probably the highest profile event that I have ever been to and there was a very glitzy and prestigious feel to the whole evening."

"However the most memorable thing for me was when Pavarotti was on stage in the afternoon and introduced his father to the audience."

## Happy

"The way that Pavarotti spoke you could feel that he was genuinely happy to be returning to the place that, 40 years earlier, had inspired him to pursue a career in music."

"It was amazing to feel that he had such a personal connection to the eisteddfod and the experience of performing here had made such a difference to his life."

Many other global stars have followed in Pavarotti's footsteps by appearing at the eisteddfod.

Among them are Alfie Boe and Jools Holland.

And this year the eisteddfod magic continues. This year's eisteddfod runs from Monday next week until July 9.

Among the stars this year will be Gregory Porter and Bryn Terfel.

## WORKING FOR YOU



Last week marked a year since 17.4 million people voted to leave the European Union. In February, 494 MPs voted to leave, by triggering Article 50. The Conservative Manifesto was perfectly clear: the people voted to ensure democratically elected politicians take back control of our laws, our borders and our money.

I spoke in the House of Commons on Thursday in the debate on the Queen's Speech. I said that I was delighted that 85 per cent of the electorate voted in the General Election for parties that said they will honour the Brexit vote. Parties that want to reverse Brexit lost electoral support. We have a very clear mandate in this Parliament to deliver Brexit. That was then again made clear in the Queen's Speech.

We will leave the European Union, we will leave the Single Market and we will leave the Customs Union. The EU cannot grant us continued membership of the Single Market after we have taken back control of our borders as that would breach one of their four freedoms. As was made clear by both sides during the referendum campaign, remaining in the Customs Union would be the worst of all worlds; although we would leave the EU, we would still be subject to its external tariffs, without any real chance of influencing them. Instead, we seek a deep and special partnership that includes a comprehensive free trade deal and customs agreement.

EU citizens make an invaluable contribution to our United Kingdom: to our economy, our public services and our everyday lives. At the European Council, the Prime Minister made a commitment to guarantee the right of abode to the 3.2 million EU nationals here in the UK. We ask the EU to reciprocate for the 1.2 million UK nationals in the EU.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) has hired over 3,000 people and engaged the top flight trade negotiator, Crawford Falconer. He brings over 25 years of public service in trade and foreign affairs. In 1999, 61 per cent of UK trade was with the EU, now it is 43 per cent. By 2025, it has been projected that our exports to the EU will account for under 35 per cent.

Liam Fox, the Secretary of State for the Department for International Trade, was in America last week to discuss our future trade and investment relationship. UK/US trade is worth over £150 billion a year and the US is our single biggest source of inward investment.

Brexit will allow us to be a confident, outward-looking and self-governing nation, ready to negotiate trade deals with the rest of the world, where our exciting future lies.

Owen Paterson  
North Shropshire MP

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# It takes courage to tell the truth

THE media is constantly talking about fake news. The vast majority of the general public wonder if they can believe anything that the politicians are saying in the run-up to a general election.

This is not a great surprise in that many of these same politicians prior to the Brexit referendum were either making rash promises or projecting fear and neither of them came to pass.

Many of us would like more objective facts, but so often these days, even when we are given them, there is so much scepticism that we immediately question the speaker's motives.

It is no wonder that after every political programme viewers are more and more confused. Many politicians have become so economical with the truth that we cannot discern who is telling the truth!

If this were not bad enough, we also have to contend with reporters portraying very slanted accounts of the real facts.

Have you noticed how so many report Donald Trump's failures (and I appreciate that there have been quite a few!) but rarely tell us about his successes?

Given that the media is so powerful in shaping public opinion, how many of us know the real truth? Sadly, some now won-

der if he or many other political leaders genuinely care about objective truth at all.

So how are we to react to these dilemmas? The greatest person to walk this earth, said: 'I am the truth.'

He never resorted to distorting the truth in order to get a following. I believe that God is angry with wicked people who suppress the truth. Generally, it is never good to cover up the truth with lies. Many regard it a sign of weakness to tell the truth but I believe it takes real courage to be a truth-telling person.

ROY WHITTALL  
Oswestry

## Sad faces tell the story of threat to village school



Please don't close our school! These are pupils at closure-threatened Llangedwyn School back in June 1997. We would say that they need not have worried because the school survived, but the trouble is that more worry came along as in more recent years there have been further attempts to close it. And again it has survived.

## Overpaid MPs need to take note of a few things

A FEW years ago now a certain individual named Dick Turpin was hanged for highway robbery.

I think he was unlucky to get caught as now, in modern times – what with national insurance, income tax, VAT, and all the other forms of creeping taxation – I think there are quite a few overpaid MPs who should suffer for 'daylight robbery'.

Oh! I forgot to mention all the money paid in foreign aid which deprives the people of this country who have to rely on food banks and parents to fund their very existence these days.

Politicians must:

- 1) Ensure that our NHS and education systems are properly funded from a treasury bursting with public money.
- 2) Allow local councils more government money to resurface our pothole-filled roads.
- 3) Find a better solution to college students instead of them having a millstone of debt wrapped around their necks.

MARTIN EDDIES  
Shrewsbury

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Readers' Letters,  
Oswestry Chronicle,  
Kettley,  
Telford, TF1 5HU

### EMAIL

letters@oswestry  
chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## A backward step by PM

I NOTE that Tezza May is to allow a free vote in Parliament to repeal the ban on hunting.

Is this her idea of "strong leadership" when over 20 hounds, each one heavier than its quarry are set upon a single animal? I apologise for calling Mrs May Tezza, but it is designed to even things up to counter the infantile journalism of the red tops. Surely to reintroduce this archaic practice is a backward step.

ROD SHAW  
Shrewsbury

## The public keep on paying high price for crime

THE latest crime figures showing a rise across the region – eight per cent in Shropshire and 15 per cent in Telford, and the usual regular excuse, that it's mainly due to different reporting of crimes.

Sex crimes, violence and burglary have a lifetime effect on the victims, drug crime is devastating many families. But crime generally means that we must all be aware of it and guard against it.

The prison population continues to rise, it is now 85,000 and the cost per prisoner is said to be about £40,000 a year.

Every hardworking person is paying for their keep. We are punished, sentenced to hard labour – why aren't they, prison is not a deterrent. Time was when the sentence was hard labour.

Everyone involved in the justice system will tell you that with the majority who come before the courts an unstable home background is the main factor. Being faithfully married to one spouse is no longer considered a virtue.

RON JONES  
St Martins

## Letters

## So Mr austerity gets paid big bucks to advise banks on cuts

IT is quite clear that George Osborne made good use of his background as the son of a millionaire wallpaper magnate to get his head round economic theory whilst making his way as a politician.

This, of course, makes him well placed to lecture others about financial matters, and charge accordingly (by the way, he is not the only one to cash in his connections – stand up, Mr Blair).

More mortals may still like to know the enormity of this off-shoot of political expertise and influence. In the months between his sacking as Chancellor and becoming editor of a London newspaper (September 2016 to April 2017), multi-talented George has charged just over £1,000,000 for his speeches, but more precisely, figures just released by the parliamentary Register of Members' Interests show that his final three speeches, costed at over £65,000 each, were delivered to HSBC, Nomura Holdings, a Japanese financial company, and Price Waterhouse Coopers, an accounting firm, particularly well known to the tax-dodging elite of this country. We will all be pleased to know that Mr Osborne has also recorded that each speaking engagement involved work of between five and seven hours. The hourly rate must exceed those enjoyed by most readers. So there we have it. The principal architect of the 'Tories' austerity programme – the programme that attacked, and still attacks, the poorest and weakest in society, the working poor, the unemployed, the sick, the elderly; the programme that closed libraries, day centres, youth services – works hand-in-glove with the financial institutions – the banks whose mismanagement caused the financial crash, the tax advising firms whose jiggery-pokery ensures that large companies (and in particular multi-nationals) pay little or no tax – gets very well paid for keeping those companies abreast of the latest thinking of financial whizz kids.

I call it disgraceful. What do you call it?  
DAVID ASKINS  
Lightmoor

## Current drone rules are not adequate

IT is 2017, terrorism is an increasing worldwide problem because the terrorists are taking full advantage of 21st century advances in technology, microcomputers, the internet, weaponry and communications, unfortunately the rules and regulations controlling their use seems to be woefully inadequate.

Take the drone, the UVA, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, developed in the 1950s but they had been designed by the American military during the First World War. As well as weapon carriers, they are used for aerial surveillance and search and rescue. My newspaper tells me that 3,456 incidents involving drones occurred last year up from 283 in 2014. It is clearly a lethal weapon in the wrong hands – do we wait to lose an aircraft and 300 passengers before sensible and realistic licensing system is applied?

BOB WYDELL  
Oswestry

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Farm dispersal sale to take place

A CHANGE in farming policy has resulted in a major dispersal sale of tractors, grassland and cultivation equipment, farm implements and machinery near Wrexham today (Thursday).

The sale at Gerwyn Fechan Farm, Royton, Bangor-on-Dee is being conducted by auctioneers Halls on behalf of Stanley Machin and a number of other local farmers, who are selling additional lots by special permission. The sale begins at 10.30am.

"There is a most comprehensive range of tractors, grassland and cultivation equipment, farm implements and machinery in the sale which have been regularly serviced and maintained," said Halls' director Allen Gittins, manager of the company's Ellesmere office.

"Many of the lots have been on the farm since they were purchased as new from the manufacturers. The sale also includes an extensive range of livestock feeding and handling equipment, workshop equipment, tools and building materials."

### Body find leads to murder probe

A MURDER investigation has been launched after a man was found dead in a closed cafe.

A 67-year-old man, from Shrewsbury, was found at 4.40pm on Monday by paramedics at the cafe in Halfway House between Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Police say the man had been assaulted and subsequently died.

Paramedics had been called to the property and found the victim with serious injuries to his head and torso. Catherine Ainsworth of West Mercia Police said: "At around 4.40pm, paramedics attended a property at Halfway House, Shrewsbury, where they found the man deceased with serious injuries to his head and torso. They reported the incident to police who are treating the death as suspicious."

# Campaigners uneasy about Gove appointment

Report by James Pugh

**THE appointment of Michael Gove as Environment Secretary has sparked fresh fears about the future threat of fracking in Shropshire.**

Anti-fracking campaigner Chris Hesketh has described the appointment by Theresa May as a "bad idea". He has also warned people in the county not to be complacent against the threat, even though there are not any fracking planning applications going through at the moment in Shropshire.

It comes about two years after highly controversial plans were finally scrapped to test drill for coal bed methane in Dudleston Heath, near Oswestry, following campaigns and protests against the proposals, which Mr Hesketh was involved in.

In 2015 Mr Gove voted against requiring an environmental permit for hydraulic fracking activities.

He also voted against a review of the impact of fracking on climate change and the environment. He did however support greater restrictions on fracking in national parks, the Broads, areas of outstanding natural beauty, World Heritage sites, and near to drinking water sources.

Mr Hesketh said: "The election news is becoming increasingly surreal, but I do agree that putting in a minister that has consistently voted against all environmental protections in charge of protecting the environment, is a very bad idea. Combine Mr Gove's dreadful pedigree with the manifesto promise to strip down the planning system so that communities like Dudleston would have no protection from the planning system and we have a significant cause for concern."

"Industry influence is still counting for more than public opinion."

## Young voice competition at Eisteddfod



Pendine Park directors Mario and Gill Kreft with Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod's music director Eilir Owen Griffiths look forward to the event and to enjoying new talent

SOME of the world's best young singers will be in Llangollen next week to compete for a prestigious new international prize.

Competitors from as far afield as Switzerland, the Philippines, the USA and China will vie to be named International Voice of the Future at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod which runs from Monday

until July 9. A dozen entrants have been attracted to the first prize of £6,000 and the Pendine Trophy and two runners-up prizes of £2,000 thanks to sponsors the Pendine Park care organisation, the Sir Bryn Terfel Foundation and the Eisteddfod. Pendine Park owner Mario Kreft, said: "The idea is to showcase and nurture young talent, providing

each year's winner with support and a cash injection to advance their careers."

The competition will be one of the highlights of the week at the festival, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. The preliminary round gets underway at a free event at Llangollen Town Hall at 10am on Thursday next week.

## Councillor wants to see funds used to aid town

A £3.9 million windfall is sitting in a bank losing money instead of helping to rejuvenate Oswestry, it has been claimed.

Oswestry Town Councillor Duncan Kerr has called on the council to either use the money or invest it wisely.

He said the funds were diminishing because of "pathetic" interest rates.

The council received a total of £4 million in capital receipts from the redevelopment of the old Smithfield livestock market on Shrewsbury Road. Planning permission was granted in 2010 for a retail and cinema complex with a new, state-of-the-art Smithfield livestock market being built on a smaller part of the site. When the cinema operator pulled out of the deal, Morrisons, the food retailer, mothballed the plans.

Seven years later the land remains empty, although the retail company says that it still wants to open a new supermarket and is now remarketing the rest of the site.

The original plans for the 16-acre site included a five-screen cinema, Morrisons supermarket, Frankie & Bennys and McDonald's restaurants.

Talks have been held over recent years about how the money from developers should be used. At a recent Oswestry Town Council finance meeting, Councillor Kerr said it was time a decision was made. "The money is diminishing in real terms all the time because of the pathetic interest rates and inflation," he said. "I have calculated we have already lost about £79,000 which could have been used for the good of Oswestry."

Town Clerk David Preston said the council was holding a 'visioning event' later this year to look at councillors' priorities for the town.

The funds can only be used for capital and not revenue projects.

The finance committee agreed to hold a meeting to discuss the windfall.

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## Mid Wales a hotspot for computer fraudsters

MID Wales is a national hotspot for computer repair fraud, new figures have revealed.

Analysis from consumer group Which? found people in the Dyfed-Powys area of Mid Wales were most likely to report losing money to computer repair fraud – with cold callers offering to fix a non-existent computer glitch, with 19.3 reports per 10,000 people, compared with the general average of 10.4.

This type of fraud was more commonly reported in areas with an older population, Which? said.

Dyfed-Powys was also a hotspot for reported fake services fraud, the organisation found, involving people who had been conned into paying an upfront fee for services that did not exist, such as falsely offering to make a PPI claim.

There were 13.4 reports per 10,000 people, compared with the national average of 9.5. Dyfed-Powys Police has issued regular warnings about computer repair fraud over the past few years. DI Anthony Evans, of Dyfed Powys Police's Financial Crime Team, said: "The fraudsters have been targeting over 60s and it is likely the scam will spread across the UK."

"We have a large older population in Dyfed Powys making it important that they, their families and carers are aware of the dangers of such scams and provide them with the advice and support they need to avoid being scammed."

"Other scams to be aware of often come from people purporting to be police officers, bank workers or phone and internet providers."

Meanwhile, Norfolk is a hotspot for reported dating fraud, while in Surrey investment scams are a particular concern.

# Social enterprise looks forward to the future

Report by Jonny Drury

**THE Cae Post environmental charity and social enterprise is making progress for its future, despite losing a kerbside recycling contract.**

Earlier this year it was announced that Cae Post, based at Trewern, near Welshpool, didn't have its deal with Powys County Council renewed, and 17 members of staff were made redundant as a result.

But since losing the contract, the firm has focused on maintaining and developing its recycling services to trade customers and recently launched a scheme to help local communities recycle plastic film and bags, which are no longer collected from residents by Powys County Council.

Cae Post chair of trustees John Harrington said: "As an independent charity we are determined to reinvent ourselves for the future so that we can continue providing meaningful work experience and opportunities to local people."

"Our aim is to extend our business and develop new areas of activity that show what impact we can have on both the environment and in terms of work experience for disabled and disadvantaged people."

Cae Post saw its number of customers using the trade waste and recycling service grow by 23 per cent this year with a 20 per cent increase in the tonnage handled and a 26 per cent increase in income.

But Cae Post says it exists to offer much more than waste and recycling services. The firm says its mission is to provide job opportunities to those members of the community who find it hard or who have been excluded from the job market.

## Sisterly love boosts hospital group



Jean Davies hands over the cheque from her half-marathon run to Victoria Sugden

SHAUN Bennett, a spinal injuries patient at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, has good reason to be proud of his sister Jean Davies.

For Jean has raised £2,360 by running for him.

Jean completed the Chester Half-marathon raising £1,160 having already donated £1,200 when she

completed the Chirk Half-marathon in 2015.

A dedicated supporter of the hospital's League of Friends, Jean, raced to the finishing line at the Chester Half-marathon applauded by her generous sponsors raising £660 topped up with a match fund £500 as a Halifax employee. Jean is an ar-

dent runner for the charity and ran the Chirk Half-marathon in 2015 to achieve over £700 in sponsorship and a match fund amount of £500 from the bank. Victoria Sugden, charity director for League of Friends, said: "Jean has been amazing taking on another challenge to raise money on Shaun's behalf."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Canal plans are in the spotlight

THE progress being made in the bid to restore the Montgomery Canal to its former glory will be outlined at a meeting next week.

A meeting of the Montgomery Canal Forum will take place on Monday at Oswestry Golf Club, starting at 2.30pm. The event is being organised by the Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust.

Chairman Michael Limbrey said: "These are exciting times for the Montgomery Canal. The next stages of restoration are under way with the aid of a £2.5 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the Restore The Montgomery Canal appeal is raising funds for the volunteers to carry on after that. The forum will be an opportunity to learn about the restoration and plans for its future, looking at the benefits achieved by other canal restorations across the country to visitors, businesses, property values, activities already taking place along the Montgomery Canal, current restoration projects and the appeal for the next stages of restoration."

### £100k investment by storage firm

A CONTAINERISED self-storage company has invested £100,000 in an articulated lorry and a crane to launch a new arm of the business – selling and delivering the iconic steel boxes.

As part of its expansion plans, Lock Stock Self-Storage, which has bases in Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Newtown, is now offering a range of containers for sale starting at £400 for a second-hand 10-foot container.

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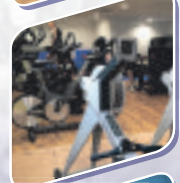
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Move is made to reduce blaze risks

A MACHINE which reduces the risk of upland wildfires by cutting bracken is being trialled by firefighters in Powys.

It comes as the number of deliberately-set grass fires in Wales has dramatically reduced since 2015, fire services have said.

Figures showed a 41 per cent reduction in 2016 compared to numbers in 2015 – including a 75 per cent reduction in April 2016, compared to April 2015. But there was a slight increase of six per cent in April 2017 compared with the previous year.

A machine to reduce the risk by cutting bracken is being trialled by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Increasing masses of bracken negatively affect agriculture, rural water supplies and are a “major contributory factor” to triggering wildfires, firefighters say.

### Canal and food festival planned

PLANS are underway for an annual canal and food festival.

The Welshpool Canal and Food Festival will take place on July 22, organisers have confirmed.

The event will be based at the Welshpool Wharf with a whole host of free activities for the whole family to enjoy including angling, canoeing and boat trips with the Heulwen Trust.

There will also be the popular coracle races for both individual and relay.

To enter a team, contact Sylvia Edwards on 07787 508635. Meanwhile, Church Street Car Park will be turned into an open air food haven with food and drink available throughout the day and live music playing.

The event will be held from 10am until 4pm.

# Invitation to take part in next careers festival

Report by Jonny Drury

**EMPLOYERS** who would like to attend the 2018 Powys Careers Festival are being invited to get in touch with the organisers.

The inaugural event at Llanelwedd in March attracted some 2,500 school pupils and saw a range of employers and educational establishments offering advice to young people on what opportunities are on offer after school or further education.

Now, the multi-agency Positive Pathways Powys group is inviting more employers or educational establishments to get in touch. Attendance at the event on March 7, is free to exhibitors and students/pupils alike; however a limited number of sponsorship opportunities for exhibitors will shortly be announced.

Jackie Parker is chair of the partnership and said: “If you’d like to discuss attending the event next year, we’d love to hear from you. Our first year went really well but we want to make 2018 even bigger and better and offer the young people of Powys an even wider range of opportunities. We want to give them world-class information so that they are fully prepared and aware of the opportunities out there when they leave school or college.”

This year the event was open to Year 10 and 12 pupils from Powys schools as well as students from NPCT colleges based in the county. In 2018, the event will be opened up to Year 9 pupils as well and will be in two halls, instead of one. Potential exhibitors wishing to discuss the 2018 event should contact Jayne Bevan on 01597 82 6695 or by emailing jayne.bevan@powys.gov.uk

## Aled takes over the union reins



Aled Huw Roberts is the new FUW county chairman for Montgomeryshire

A 10th generation farmer from Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant has taken over the role as county chairman in Montgomeryshire for the Farmers’ Union of Wales.

Aled Huw Roberts, 37, has been working as a farm manager for over 20 years near Wrexham, as well as running his own home farm, Plas Du, at Llanrhaeadr since 2012.

Speaking about his appointment, Aled said: “I would like to thank our members for electing me to be the next county chairman and look forward to representing the Farmers’ Union of Wales. My predecessor Mark Williams did a fantastic job as chairman and I hope I can continue the work he did just as well.

“Agriculture in Wales is facing an uncertain future and much work is to be done to ensure our Welsh farmers get a fair deal in terms of trade opportunities and support here at home. I feel passionately about agriculture and ensuring that the next generation of farmers face a bright, prosperous future.

“Therefore I will do my utmost to help the Farmers’ Union of Wales in continuing their plight to advance the views of the farmers of Wales.”

## Labour looks to build on vote increase

MONTGOMERYSHIRE Labour Party said its General Election campaign was “just the start” of its movement in the area, after almost doubling its vote from the previous election.

The party saw a big increase as candidate Iwan Wyn Jones received 5,500 votes in the constituency, coming third behind Conservative Glyn Davies, who retained the seat, and Lib Dem Jane Dodds. The party had a large influx of new members in the 12 months prior to the election, and was beginning to get properly organised just as the snap election was called, according to campaign leader Jon Mackeen. He said: “It was an impressive achievement in the circumstances. People came together really well and put in hours of work at stalls and leafleting across the county.”

Welshpool area organiser Kait Duerden praised the local candidate, and was pleased with the public response, adding: “We enjoyed going round with Iwan, our candidate.”

Candidate agent Bob Davies said the party now wants to hear from more people in the area. He added: “It was a good result. But it was just a start.”

## Chiefs appointed at fire authority

MID and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority has appointed a new chairman and deputy chairman.

Councillor Rowland Rees Evans, previously the deputy, was appointed chairman, while Councillor Jan Curcic was appointed deputy.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service serves 4,500 square miles and makes-up almost two thirds of the landmass of Wales.

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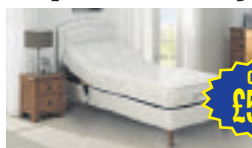


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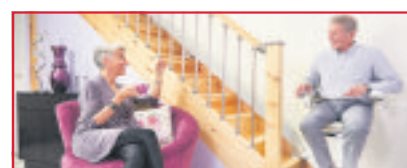
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## Truly Stylish in Design

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## Firm pleased to support football club

A LONG-standing relationship between a family owned Oswestry business and a youth club is still flourishing.

It is nearly two decades since Arthurs Vauxhall first became one of Oswestry Boys and Girls Football Club's sponsors.

Representatives from the company were thrilled to be part of the club's 40th anniversary celebrations this month.

"We take great pride in being one of the first sponsors of the club which has continued to go from strength to strength," said William Edwards, sales manager of award-winning Arthurs of Oswestry.

"We are pleased to have cemented our relationship with the club on the occasion of its 40th anniversary because we have a commitment to helping keep boys off the streets and to give them a real purpose in life.

"Their 40th anniversary celebration this month was a huge success with former members, who have gone on to play professional football, attending.

"The questions and answers, under the chairmanship of radio presenter James Bond, were attended by Darren Ryan, Sean Parrish, Paul Evans and Matty Done who gave up their time to share their experiences with the packed audience."

Added William: "In addition to the anniversary celebrations, Arthurs of Oswestry has historically supported other events held by the club and over the years has provided shirt sponsorships."

Owning nearly six acres of grounds that provide football pitches at Park Hall, the Oswestry Boys and Girls Football Club currently has over 200 members possibly making it Shropshire's largest youth club.

# Brexit agreements still high on list of concerns

Report by Jonny Drury

**BREXIT is still high on the list of concerns for businesses a year on from the referendum – not least because of the uncertainty over the terms under which the UK will leave the EU.**

That's the view of an Oswestry-based employment law specialist who says the EU referendum has been a main topic of conversation for her clients over the past year.

Jennifer Gibson, of Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors in Church Street, said the uncertainty which had prevailed since the EU referendum in June last year was worrying for employers. She said: "The main thing all businesses crave is stability, and that has been in short supply ever since the UK voted to leave the EU."

"But in actual fact, the UK's employment law is unlikely to change significantly even when the Brexit negotiations eventually conclude."

"The Government has already said that all EU laws will be converted to UK law at the point we leave the EU, to avoid any sudden changes overnight."

"The main source of uncertainty in the past year is how leaving the EU will affect the supply of labour and otherwise the wider economy, which is of course very difficult to predict, and it's that which is a legitimate cause for concern."

For more information and advice, contact Jennifer on 0800 652 3371 or visit the website at [www.lblaw.co.uk](http://www.lblaw.co.uk)

## Car site is now fully operational



Operations director Richard Edwards and managing director Lee Hitch

FIX Auto Wrexham has completed its relocation and is now fully operational at a new site on the Wrexham Industrial Estate, just seven weeks after managing director Lee Hitch collected the keys to what had previously been a disused furniture factory.

The move is the latest chapter for the local business that first established a vehicle repair centre in Wrexham just over two years ago. While the business is relatively new to Wrexham, the Hitch family who own and run the operation have a rich history in the industry having been repairing vehicles at its parent site in Llanymynech near Oswestry for more than 40 years.

A traditional static spraybooth suitable for cars and LCVs forms part of the new 11,000 sq ft production facility, as well as a six-bay moveable booth that was transferred from the previous Fix Auto Wrexham site.

There is also a secure compound, ample parking and additional space for future growth if required.

The new site features a customer reception and waiting area incorporating the new Fix Auto brand standards.

Mr Hitch said: "Now that we have the extra space and the additional facilities we are looking at repairing at least 50 vehicles per week for our customers. Once we had the go-ahead, we were able to implement carefully-constructed plans to ensure we would be fully operational in a short time."

## New role at farm union for Medwyn

NFU Cymru and NFU Mutual have appointed a new assistant joint secretary to their Llanfair Caereinion office.

Medwyn Jones, brought up on a family farm in Llanbrynmair and still involved in the local farming community, has joined the organisation and has a wealth of agricultural experience.

Medwyn said: "Having worked for NFU Mutual for many years I am excited about the opportunity to further develop my career with NFU Cymru and form a new and exciting partnership with Wyn Jenkins and all the team within the Llanfair Caereinion office."

"Having worked in the office for 15 years I know most of the members already and I look forward to working more closely with them and illustrating how NFU Cymru and NFU Mutual can offer a range of solutions, help, support and representation."

He studied agriculture at Harper Adams University before working for Genus as a customer service operative.

Mr Jones joined NFU Mutual in 2002 and worked as a customer service operative.

He has now taken up the role of assistant group secretary working with group secretary Wyn Jenkins.

## Wynnstay's figures

RISING farm gate prices have boosted sales at agricultural group Wynnstay – but profits were almost wiped out as it tackled problems in its Just For Pets retail chain.

Pre-tax profits at the group fell from £4.08 million to just £130,000, despite a 6.3 per cent rise in sales in the six months to April 30.

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## Tribute day to cousins is a huge success

HUNDREDS of people turned out to support a unique yurt maze day in memory of two cousins who tragically died last year.

Harry Greaves was 29 when he died while trekking in Peru and his cousin David also died last year from Motor Neurone Disease.

After a tough year for the Greaves family, Harry's parents Simon and Sarah wanted to do something to remember the lives that the pair led.

On Saturday at the fun day at Bonygarth near Oswestry, people enjoyed activities such as skittles, a bouncy castle and exploring the yurt maze, which Harry himself helped to build part of before he died.

It was a fantastic occasion according to Simon, and the family were humbled by the amount of people who turned out.

He said: "It was as good as we hoped, and we had the good weather too."

"We're not sure how many were there, but it was around 200, there were a lot of children enjoying the day and it was very, very good."

"It made us proud of both of them, it was a touching day to see there was so much strong feeling around their loss, and to celebrate their lives, people were aware of what special people they were."

Over £2,000 has been raised from the event, to donate to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Along with this, a number of orders were made for a book of Harry's poetry that was put together by his parents in his memory.

Simon added: "People know how sad it was when both of them died, and it was fantastic people could come together to raise money in their memory."

## School sexual offences rise

THE number of sexual offences recorded in schools by West Mercia Police has gone up by 366 per cent in the last five years.

The number of historic offences reported in schools in the past five years has also risen by 356 per cent, a Freedom of Information request to West Mercia Police has revealed. There were 21 sex offences recorded in schools by West Mercia Police in 2012. But that figure had risen to 98 last year. Of the offences recorded in 2016, 93 cases involved student victims. In one case the victim was a teacher and four cases were classified as 'other'.

In 27 of the cases, the victim was aged 10 or under, in 66 cases the victim was between age 11 and 17, in two cases the victim was aged 21 to 40 and in three cases the victim was aged 41 and over. There were 16 historic sex offences at schools reported in 2012, a figure that rose to 73 last year. Historic offences are those offences that are recorded more than a year after the date allegedly committed. Detective Chief Inspector Paul Moxley said: "The figures reflect a national trend that shows an increase in non recent sexual offences being reported in educational establishments. It is therefore encouraging to see that survivors of such offences are feeling more empowered and confident to come forward to report offences to the police."

## MP's backing for name change

GLYN Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, is backing a proposal that the name of the Welsh Assembly should be changed to a 'Welsh Parliament'.

The power to make this name change was devolved to Cardiff Bay in the Wales Act passed by the last Parliament.

Mr Davies, who was a member of the National Assembly for Wales from 1999 until 2007, has long supported this name change.

Commenting on the details of a public consultation which showed strong public support for the name change, Mr Davies said: "While I support an early decision to change the name, I do not think there is any rush. It's not the top priority for Welsh people, and the new name can be introduced gradually to minimise costs. But if it looks like a Parliament and acts like a Parliament, we should call it a Parliament. I've been calling it the Welsh Parliament since the Wales Bill was passed earlier this year."

# Notable visitors say hello at historic village castle



Christopher Morris, left, with Bill Tabone carried out paranormal surveys at the castle

THERE has been plenty of unusual activity at Whittington Castle near Oswestry.

Bill Tabone, founder of the Australian Paranormal Group, flew from Melbourne to join local group Paranormal Friends at an investigation at the castle.

The group are made up of experienced investigators with a love of the paranormal world,

and Mr Tabone said the evidence gathered was well worth the 24-hour flight.

He said: "The opportunity to investigate somewhere as iconic and historic as Whittington Castle does not come around very often, especially in Australia, and it certainly lived up to its haunted reputation."

"We've gathered some great evidence and



Ghost hunters said Whittington Castle lived up to its haunted reputation

there were some unforgettable experiences."

According to members, they experienced several ghostly goings-on including K2 activity, unexplained bangs and noises and lots of glass divination.

Pieces of information and evidence will be evaluated with co-founder of the group Christopher Morris excited by the evidence. He added:

"It was a privilege to be able to bring Bill over to this historic Shropshire location. Ever since another co-founder of the group and I worked with him in Melbourne we wanted to get him over here. The investigation was brilliant. The guests were all eager and got involved with our usual techniques as well as those Bill brought over from Down Under."

# Knights battle it out at anniversary celebrations



Brave knights rolled up to Whittington Castle for a battle at the weekend



There was plenty of colour when the knights descended upon Whittington Castle

Report by Jonny Drury

**THE days of knights and damsels in distress were remembered at an event at Whittington Castle near Oswestry at the weekend.**

The castle hosted the event on Saturday and Sunday which saw The Knights in Battle Medieval Society, a specialist re-enactment group, spend the weekend at the castle.

They staged fights and tournaments and visitors got the chance to get some hands-on experience of the weapons and armour used in the tournament.

Knights In Battle Medieval Society is a Sheffield based group specialising in bringing medieval history to life. The event was held to help the castle mark the 10th anniversary of its restoration. The strikingly picturesque and romantic ruins are steeped in much history, tales of bitter border warfare, romance and legend.

The community has acquired a 99-year lease to manage the castle that sits in the centre of its village. A £1.5m project to repair and restore Whittington Castle has been completed with the assistance of a £950k grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Supporters believe the castle is the only castle in the UK which is owned and run by a local community. The existing castle is set in about 12 acres of ground and is the remains of a Norman home. The castle welcomes visitors all year and stages events and attractions throughout the year. Forthcoming events include a car boot sale on July 16 while on July 29-30 the castle is hosting a multi period event.

This is the castle's largest event of the year and will include a look back to medieval times and to the Second World War.



A fearsome knight looks for a fight at the castle



Two gallant knights battle at the re-enactment event held at Whittington Castle as part of the property's celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of its restoration

# Fundraiser will help two charities

## Commercial feature

Local farmer and NFU member, Emyr Wigley, is hosting a charity event at his farm and Eve's garden on July 15, in aid of the two charities, RABI and Ovarian Cancer Action.

None other than Lord Digby-Jones, patron of Ovarian Cancer Action and ex-director general of the CBI, will be officially opening the event, which runs from 4pm to 6pm, with the Open Evening giving people the opportunity to see Emyr's pedigree British Blue herd, including calves, housed in his recently completed modern rearing sheds.

Fun family activities will also include a hog roast, face painting and trampolines, with competitions including 'Guess the weight of the cow' and 'How many balloons in the tractor' with 100 per cent of all money raised, going direct to these two important charities.

Many local businesses are supporting the event and will be in attendance, including; Cain Vets; Tudor Griffiths; Morgans of Oswestry; NFU; Digga Rentals; Sherwell Cattle Tags; The British Blue Cattle Society and Offa's Dyke Brewery, to name a few.

Tickets can be bought in advance for £12.50 (children under 12 Free) which includes a hog roast bap, musical entertainment and free parking or, can be bought for £15 on the day at the farm gate.

Stuart Chacksfield, Oswestry & District NFU Group Secretary, said: "With 100 per cent of all proceeds raised going direct to RABI and Ovarian Cancer Action, we would encourage both the public and farming families to come along and support this fun and educational



Emyr Wigley's pedigree British Blue calves will be welcoming families on Saturday, July 15

farm open evening. For advance tickets and enquiries, please pop into the Oswestry NFU office or call us on phone 01691 652120.

"Please note, as this is a Pedigree Level 1 herd, please observe good bio-security with no mucky wellies, etc. on the day."

\* Meanwhile, bosses at North Shropshire College are encouraging people to consider

starting a career in agriculture. An Advice and Guidance Evening is being held on Wednesday, August 30, at the Walford Campus for anyone wanting information about starting in September at the college.

Students are still applying now, however, so anyone interested should apply via the college website: [www.nsc.ac.uk](http://www.nsc.ac.uk) or contact the



Lord Digby Jones will officially open the fundraising event

Admissions Team on 01691 688080. Agriculture is a popular course at the Walford campus and recently the students have been instrumental in silaging at the Walford estate.

Now Walford campus is in its 68th year, things have moved on a fair bit from when silaging would have been carried out by horses and a lot of labour. In 2017, the harvest was carried

out a little more hi-tech with the college's self-propelled John Deere forage harvester being used. John Deere and Kubota tractors towing the 10 tonne trailers were operated by the keen and able students. In a little over three days, the 1,000 tonnes of grass silage off 170 acres was picked up and transported safely to the farm's silage pit.

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## Fundraiser to back committee's work

A BARBECUE along with live music is being hosted by and in aid of Llangynog Entertainment Committee.

The committee provides outings and entertainment for senior citizens of the village. The event will be held on Saturday at 7.30pm at Llangynog Memorial Hall in the main hall with a marquee outside.

The band who will be performing live in the Llangynog, Llanrhaeadr and Llanfyllin area and play a range of songs from The Kinks and Small Faces through to Bruce Springsteen and The Stereophonics. The New Inn will be running the bar. Tickets are £8 for adults and £4 for children and can be bought from members of Llangynog Entertainment Committee, Siop Eirianfa in Penybontfawr; The New Inn in Llangynog and Bodalwyn News in Llanrhaeadr or on (01691) 860622.

## Another comedy event to be staged

THE second Caboose Comedy Club event is taking place tomorrow (Friday) in Oswestry.

The comedy night takes place at Carriages at the Cambrian Works on Gobowen Road.

The comedy night will again feature four comedians and comedy talent from around the country as well as providing stage time for new and up and coming comedians.

The line up will be performances from Adam Staunton, Liam Bolton, Danny Cali and Rob Mullholland.

A spokesman said: "With resident MC Phil Green and some fine music and a delicious American Platter on offer for diners Caboose Comedy Club promises to provide the complete evening's entertainment."

"Tickets are priced at £21.50 for pre-comedy dinner from 7.30pm and £12.50 for comedy club only (bar food available).

"Comedy starts around 9.15pm and music runs until midnight."

# Lottery winners dig in to build new path at national memorial

**A LOTTERY millionaire couple from Oswestry were among those who teamed up with a decorated war hero to build a new pathway at the National Memorial Arboretum.**

James and Sue Schofield, who won £1 million in the EuroMillions New Year's Day draw in 2013, were among 36 lotto winners who gave up their time to spend two days creating the new path at the arboretum in Alrewas, near Lichfield.

They joined forces with George Cross holder Lance-Corporal Matthew Croucher to build a 44-yard path linking the main avenue to the new memorials which have been built at the back of the park.

With a combined wealth of more than £45 million, the winners spent two days working on the route, which has been named National Lottery Way.

Also among the millionaires taking part were Tom and Rita Naylor, from Wolverhampton, Stuart and Denise Powell, also from Wolverhampton, and Brenda Porth, from Stourbridge. L/Cpl Croucher, a 33-year-old Royal Marine Commando from Solihull, was awarded the George Medal after he risked his life to save his comrades in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The cross is the highest British and Commonwealth medal for gallantry not in the face of the enemy. He had thrown himself onto a Taliban tripwire grenade to save his comrades near Sangin in February, 2008. He is one of only 22 living recipients of the medal.

Also among the lottery winners who helped out was Ken Wedgeworth, from Swadlincote, who is a volunteer at the arboretum. Ken had previously served with the Army for 35 years, rising to the rank of Sergeant Major. He won



Shropshire lottery winners James and Sue Schofield get to work with war hero L/Cpl Matthew Croucher

£1 million on the EuroMillions draw in December last year. It is the third time National Lottery winners have turned out to help at the memorial park. In 2013, they renovated the Shot At Dawn memorial, which commemo-

rates 306 soldiers executed for desertion during the First World War, and later pardoned. The following year they created a new Dunkirk Memorial at the entrance to the site which was visited by two veterans of the evacua-

tion while it was under construction. The arboretum has received grants totalling more than £10 million in lottery funding, most recently a grant of £2.85 million for the new visitor and education centre.

## Awards set to recognise best firms

BUSINESSES from across Powys gathered in Newtown recently for the launch of the county's premier business awards.

The annual Powys Business Awards, which began in 2009, were launched at the office site of the Newtown bypass with sponsors and past finalists attending the event.

Cllr Martin Weale, Powys County Council's cabinet member for regeneration and planning, said: "The Powys Business Awards go have gone from strength to strength since they were launched and I'm delighted that Powys County Council continues to support them."

"Not only do these awards provide an excellent opportunity for the county's businesses to raise their profiles, it gives us the chance to showcase their quality."

"The Powys Business Awards are now an important date in the business calendar and I would urge all businesses in the county to enter this year's awards. They are an excellent way of highlighting the range and expertise of the county's businesses and also they celebrate their success."

This year sees a range of new categories added including recognition for environmental and quality excellence. The awards are an opportunity for all businesses, social enterprises and charities in Powys to compete for a chance to be a finalist no matter if they are large or small or if they are a new start-up or an existing business.

At the launch, organisers Mid Wales Manufacturing Group and Powys County Council announced the confirmed list of categories and sponsors for this year's business awards.

Nick Cleary, Project Manager for Griffiths, gave guests an update on the progress being made on the Newtown bypass and some of the local benefits the project had brought to the region.

Further details on all the awards can be found on the website [www.powysbusinessawards.co.uk](http://www.powysbusinessawards.co.uk) and deadline for submission of entries is July 10.

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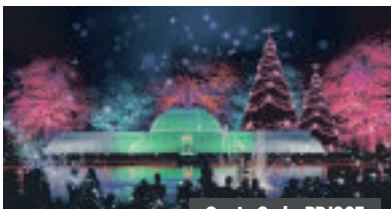
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# Donation gives a lift to patients

**A SUPPORT group has provided an uplifting experience to patients at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.**

The League of Friends to The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital has given a newly patented emergency lifting chair to the hospital at Gobowen.

Funds raised by The League of Friends have been used to purchase a Raizer chair.

The special chair is designed to transfer a patient from the floor to a sitting or standing position.

Linda Head, moving and handling co-ordinator at the specialist hospital, said the chair had already been used successfully throughout the hospital and said the important equipment was easy to use. She said: "It provides dignity for a wide range of users, from those who may need to be lowered to the floor for example for physiotherapy, as well as lifting others back up."

"The chair can be easily and quickly assembled which helps reduce everyone's anxiety whilst comfortably supporting the patient."

Linda expressed thanks to The League of Friends on behalf of patients and her own colleagues who have also benefitted enormously from the new lifting equipment.

Victoria Sugden, charity director of The League of Friends, added: "We are really grateful to our members and fundraisers who have allowed us to make this donation."

The state-of-the-art chair is quickly assembled around the patient by just one member of the hospital team who can then use it to effortlessly lift them to safety.

Linda Head was happy to try out the new chair alongside Victoria Sugden and Elaine Tinsley, accounts officer with the League of Friends.



Testing the chair are Linda Head, Elaine Tinsley and Victoria Sugden

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## Solar farm plans 'judged on merits'

NEW solar farms will be considered on their merits despite being within areas set out for their development, according to a leading councillor.

Councillor Martin Weale, Powys County Council's cabinet member for regeneration, has insisted that any solar farms proposed for 20 sites identified by the council "would be subject to the full planning process".

It comes as the council publishes new evidence on renewable energy as part of an examination of its Local Development Plan (LDP).

The LDP sets out parts of the county which can be developed for certain uses, such as renewable energy, housing, or industrial purposes.

The new evidence is from additional work undertaken in response to public comments received on the plan, and complies with the Welsh Government's policy and guidance to optimise energy from renewable energy sources to combat climate change.

The county-wide high-level assessment, which takes into account landscape sensitivity, has identified 20 local search areas with the potential for solar development.

Councillor Weale said: "As the new cabinet member I have been thoroughly briefed about the LDP hearing. I would remind the public that renewable energy document produced by the council is a high level theoretical study and that any scheme would be subject of full planning process."

He added that any planning application for a solar energy development proposal within or outside a local search area, would still have to be determined on its own individual merits.

## Motorist tells of road attack

GOOD Samaritan Paul Cooke is warning other motorists to be vigilant after he was set upon on an isolated, country lane.

Mr Cooke was left with friction burns on his neck and in shock after he stopped to help a woman in distress on the roadside.

The 37-year-old, who lives in the Ceiriog Valley, was driving from Oswestry to his home via the Racecourse when the incident happened on June 7.

He says he is still having night terrors about what could have happened.

"I was on the road that goes over the hills to the Ceiriog Valley, near Llechrydau, at about 8.20pm when I saw a woman out of her car, in the road," he said. "She appeared to be in distress and I stopped, as most people would, to see if I could help. But as I did a man opened my door from behind and grabbed my seatbelt, tightening it around my neck and assaulting me.

"I could not believe what was happening to me. Luckily my car was still in gear and I was able to make my escape.

"I have no idea what would have happened otherwise, whether I would have been mugged or whether they would have taken the car.

"I have always been someone who would stop to help anyone if I could. But now I will certainly think twice."

## Campaigner dies at the age of 93

ONE of Shropshire's foremost campaigners on nuclear issues has died at the age of 93.

Allan Tucker was also well known for riding a tricycle until well into his 90s in Oswestry.

He was also a prolific letter writer and his letters regularly appeared in the Oswestry Chronicle.

Neighbour Sam Evans said Mr Tucker would be remembered with great affection by readers for his forthright views on a number of issues, in particular his opposition to nuclear weaponry.

"He campaigned tirelessly on this and other topics," Mr Evans said.

The former BT engineer was an advanced driver and when he gave up his licence in his 80 became a keen cyclist and would cycle many miles a day. Mr Evans said: "Only after a number of falls was he persuaded to exchange it for a more stable tricycle. He was then further disgruntled when family and friends had him fit a motor to the tricycle in the last year."

# It is a big team effort at orthopaedic hospital



The Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital team who will take on the Snowdon Push

A TEAM of staff and a spinal injuries patient from Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is taking on the daunting task of a Snowdon Push.

The annual event is organised by The Back-Up Trust, a national charity supporting patients with spinal cord injuries and is taking place this year on Saturday. It will see more

than 10 teams taking part, each including a wheelchair user who must be pushed and pulled up the tallest mountain in England and Wales.

The orthopaedic team will feature staff and in a specially designed wheelchair will be Tim Mabon, who spent several months on the unit



Derek Williams has been recognised for his work at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital

after a bike accident left him with a severe spinal cord injury. To donate visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RJAHspinalteam](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RJAHspinalteam).

Meanwhile, the hospital's technical instructor Derek Williams is celebrating after recently winning the prestigious Care and Innovation Award at the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA)

Rebuilding Lives Awards. Derek, who has worked at the hospital for 42 years based in the workshop, helps rehabilitate spinal and stroke patients, as well as those who have suffered hand injuries, through teaching and motivating them to try practical activities by creating items in the workshop.

# Wide variety of projects are tackled by school pupils



Ollie Taylor, Kate Warner from the NSPCC and Frances Warburton

Report by Jonny Drury

**STUDENTS in Oswestry have been involved in various projects in recent weeks.**

Pupils from Bellan House School raised £2,335 for the NSPCC by going on a sponsored walk to Rodney's Pillar.

Kate Warner from the NSPCC said: "I would like to thank all the children for their, and the school's support. The amount is completely amazing."

Oswestry School Lower Sixth Form pupil Greta Horvathova has been awarded a runner-up prize in the British Science Association 'Science Journalism' competition.

This year's competition began with a research day at the University of Manchester where Greta Horvathova and Teodora Nanesu were joined by keen Fifth Form scientists Roisin Gambroudes, Aarifa Khanam and Ananya Prashanth, supported by chemistry teacher Emma Renwick. Back at school the pupils started to think about the article they would write - a 500 word piece explaining the work of their chosen scientist to a lay-audience. Greta and Teodora both submitted articles to the competition. Greta's article, on the topic of landmines, achieved a runners up prize and has also been published on the BSA Manchester branch blog.

Meanwhile, Google Expeditions came to The Marches School to run virtual reality geography and science themed sessions with Year 7 and 8 students. Using Google cardboard goggles, staff took students to destinations around the world, into volcanoes, under the sea and even as far as space. Google Expeditions is a new app developed by Google to open up the classroom for an immersive learning experience and a tool to help teachers deliver innovative lessons.



Bellan House students climbed Rodney's Pillar for charity



Year 7 students at The Marches School looking through their VR experience Google cardboard goggles



Greta Horvathova has done well in a science journalism competition

# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
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LETTING

21  
Oswestry & Border Chronicle  
Thursday, June 29, 2017

## Truly stunning detached home in sought after village

A truly stunning detached family home, 38 Coly Anchor, Kinnerley, lies in a quiet position in a highly sought after village. It is for sale through Town & Country at £295,000 with no chain.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "The property has been fitted with many high specification extras over the standard build to create a magnificent property with generous accommodation. The house enjoys an open backdrop onto fields and is close to schools, public transport and every day conveniences." This home comes with a generous rear garden along with block paved parking and a single garage. "Quite simply don't miss this one!" added the spokesman.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a covered porch, entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/dining room, utility, guest WC, master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms and a family bathroom. In more detail the entrance hall has oak flooring, stairs off and an under-stairs cupboard. The lounge has oak flooring and an Aarrow cast iron burning stove inset with a tiled hearth and brick inset. There is a square bay window to the front and the lounge opens onto the dining area. Being beautifully appointed, the kitchen/dining room has a range of modern gloss fronted base and contrasting wall units with oak worktops over, a one and a half bowl Franke sink, eye level double Indesit electric oven, ceramic induction hob, a chimney style extractor fan over, integrated Indesit dishwasher, integrated fridge/freezer, porcelain tiled flooring and a spotlighting, contemporary radiator. The dining area has porcelain tiled flooring and French doors to the rear garden, a contemporary radiator, breakfast bar and spotlighting.

The utility has porcelain tiled flooring, a further sink, extractor fan, spotlighting, plumbing for a washing machine and a part glazed door to the rear garden. A door leads to the guest WC. Upstairs, all the doors are finished in oak with polished chrome handles.

The spacious master bedroom has a recessed area leading to the en suite, a square bay window to the front and an en-suite. Bedroom two overlooks the rear. Bedroom four is L-shaped and again has views over the rear.

The family bathroom features a luxury suite.

## KEY FEATURES

Magnificent detached house

Sought after village

Quiet position

Four bedrooms

Bathroom, en-suite and guest WC

KINNERLEY £295,000



## TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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OSWESTRY  
£217,500

# Versatile property in popular town is ideal family home

An impressive and versatile three storey town house with nine spacious rooms in total, 90 Castle Street, Oswestry is an ideal family home with the potential for other uses.

With scope to split into two or three flats, (subject to permissions), or office accommodation, it has many Georgian features throughout and is well maintained. It is for sale through Town & Country at £217,500.

Its accommodation currently comprises an entrance hallway, a cellar, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen/diner, six bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The good sized rear garden is lawned and enclosed by walling and hedging making, it is a private and secure area. The property is warmed by gas central heating and has double glazing. There is a car park around the corner with possible permit parking available.



In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor and down to the dry lied cellar. The lounge has a sash-style window, part panelled walls, a picture rail and coved ceiling and data points etc. With a part glazed door to the rear, the dining room has part panelled walls, a picture rail and a coved ceiling. Having base and wall kitchen units, the kitchen/diner includes a stainless steel double sink unit and mixer tap,a door to the side, a Belling double range-style cooker, extractor fan, part tiled walls and part tiled flooring.

On the first floor landing are stairs to the second floor, a family bathroom with a white three piece suite comprising, part tiled walls, a built-in cupboard with wall mounted gas boiler. There are three bedrooms on this floor, all with sash windows and one with a built-in cupboard.

On the second floor are another three bedrooms, again all having sash windows.

Outside the front garden comprises a small gravelled courtyard leading to the front door.

The rear garden has a courtyard with a paved area at the side leading to a shed, a lawned garden to the rear and a gate for the bins and is enclosed by walling.

There is a car park around the corner with possible permit parking available from the council for around £150 per annum per car.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.

## Recently completed four bedroomed barn conversion offers ‘wow’ factor

KYNASTON  
£575,000

>>>

Packed with the “wow factor”, Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £575,000. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: “This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its’ recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing.”

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage. The master bedroom comes with fitted wardrobes and an en-suite, a further two bedrooms share the family bathroom. Duncan added: “The conversion has been beautifully executed with excellent craftsmanship and use of materials. At ground level there is underfloor heating with oak or limestone tiled floors throughout.”

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



## Super Georgian country house has lawns and tennis court

OSWESTRY  
£1,250,000

<<<

A fully restored Georgian country house adjoining parkland and open countryside, Pen-y-Llan Hall on the edge of Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £1,250,000.

It has a vestibule, entrance hall, inner hall, drawing room, study, morning room, dining room, conservatory, cloakroom/WC, sitting room, playroom, kitchen, utility room, pantry and cellars.

It also has a master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms all en-suite, bedroom six, dressing room, two attic rooms, a bathroom, detached former annexe with planning permission for a workshop, stores, kitchen, cloakroom/WC, garaging and domestic buildings.

There are also lawned gardens and a tennis court and woodland of around 2.8 acres.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



Cottage enjoys spectacular views over beautiful Mid Wales lake

LLANWDDYN  
£155,000 >>>

Ever dreamed of owning a cottage with spectacular views towards the beautiful Lake Vyrnwy, one of the iconic tourism attractions of Mid Wales?

If so, then agents Halls' Welshpool office has just the property for you in 2, Grwnoer Cottages, Llanwddyn, a former gamekeeper's cottage built in the 1930s that's on offer for £155,000.

Located in glorious open countryside, this semi-detached property has an entrance hall, sitting room with a bay window and open fire, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom and sunroom, with far reaching views to Lake Vyrnwy, on the ground floor. Upstairs there are three double bedrooms and a WC.

Outside there is private driveway with parking for up to three cars and a garden with a patio and timber summerhouse, which is a lovely place to watch the sunset over the lake.

Call Halls on 01938 555552.



Bungalow sits in cul-de-sac and has two bedrooms

OSWESTRY  
£169,950

AN attractive bungalow with disability modifications, 8 Ambleside Road in Oswestry is located in a quiet cul-de-sac within easy walking distance of the town centre.

The home sits in a sought after location and benefits from PVC double glazing and gas central heating. It is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £169,950.

The property is ideal for retirement being situated in a cul-de-sac road of principally retirement properties and only a few minutes walking distance from Sainsbury's supermarket and the town's shopping centre. The property is also close to the recently created town green and recreation area.

The property is a detached bungalow traditionally constructed of brick under a tiled roof (1987) the accommodation being spacious and well laid out with the benefit of a front door intercom system, low level kitchen units, gas fired central heating and upvc double glazing.



The living room has a bay window, two radiators and fitted carpet while the cloakroom has a wash basin and plumbing for w.c. The kitchen has low level modern fitted units and appliances and the inner hall has fitted cupboards and fitted carpet.

The wetroom has a walk-in shower, low level w.c., wash hand basin, radiator and vinyl floor. There are two bedrooms and the property also has a conservatory.

The property has the benefit of a long paved driveway leading to the detached garage. To the rear is a paved patio and decked entertainment area, lawn with hedged boundaries.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Superb cottage with balcony is in location on edge of forest

LLANGADFAN  
£169,950 <<<

Bliss Cottage, 4 Hendre, Llangadfan, is a delightfully charming two-bedroomed semi-detached cottage in a beautiful location on the edge of Dyfnant Forest.

Having a balcony, separate lounge and dining room, kitchen and wet room, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £169,950.

A number of external items may be available by separate negotiation including a wood fired hot tub, an attractive insulated "Hobbit House" with wood stove, a large timber shed and a timber potting shed/greenhouse.

From the paved patio the gardens lead across the front of the house with a raised lawn in a sunny position with good views. A pathway then leads to large side gardens with woodland beyond.

There is a stream-fed pond and a second still pond.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



# There are flowers for all seasons, says Dan

HE has designed the most ambitious award-winning gardens and is a pioneer of natural landscapes and landforms, a wild flower expert and a seasoned plantsman and columnist.

Now Dan Pearson (pictured) has collated 10 years of his writing to bring us a year-round celebration of the garden, both practical and inspirational, urban and rural, in his new book Natural Selection.

But his personal favourite seasons are spring and autumn.

"I like spring for the opening up and all that optimism and its break with our long and grey winter, and all that energy," he said. "I like autumn for the fact that it's so relaxed in comparison with the growing season that's just come before. As a gardener, you can let go a little at this point and stop and look. Most things have done what they're going to do or are in the throes of their last fling.

"It's to do with berries, colouring, vegetation changing its nature, perennials becoming skeletons and asters coming into their own with a huge amount of colour. All that lovely smell of fermentation and decay provides a tremendously evocative time of year."

Of course, he has a plethora of favourite plants for all seasons, but here are some of those he wouldn't be without.

## SPRING

**:: Epimedium:** "I have a whole collection and I love them because they have really interesting leaf mottling and colourings and very delicate flowers. I have European and Asian ones. Epimedium Caramel and E. x versicolor Sulphureum are two really good ones. They look good with the tail end of snowdrops and are good with things that are lower, such as creeping strawberries, and are pretty with a little grass called Melica altissima Alba.

**:: Blossom:** "My favourite blossom tree is Malus hupensis because it is scented, it has a very pale pink bud and pure white flower. It's glamorous without being in-your-face. It's graceful and it's just at the beginning of its wonderfully long season because it reappears as berries or hips in the autumn. It's just a really good crab apple, not too big for a small garden. I would put that with a backdrop of simple dark holly."

## SUMMER

**:: Sanguisorba Cangshan Cranberry:** "This tall and elegant perennial flowers from high summer until October. It's good in association with other things because it's got lots of transparency to it. It has very small rich red-burgundy drumstick flowers so you can use it with other things very effectively. I'd pair it with veronicastrum or Persicaria amplexicaulis. They are lovely with those verticals."

**:: Rosa eglanteria (sweet briar):** "It's just a common-or-garden thing which is super easy to grow. It grows in our hedges and its leaves have

the scent of fresh apples. It produces single pink-flowered dog roses in the summer and beautiful autumn hips. I grow it in hedges with hawthorn and hazel. You can also grow it on its own and it's beautiful in long meadow grass."

## AUTUMN

**:: Aster:** "Asters are so smart during the summer, just getting ready for their big autumn show so they never look tired. In August, when lots of things have already been and gone and are looking awful, the asters are looking terrific. One of my favourites is Turbinellus, which is lilac-blue and very late flowering, bearing tiny little flowers and very open sprays so there's lots of space in it and I'd team it up with tall-growing veronias or something like bronze fennel, which is going into its autumn colouring by then."

**:: Nerine bowdenii (pictured):** "These brilliant pink bulbs love a hot, sunny place, ideally against a south-facing wall. They are never disappointing, flower for weeks and are really tough if they have free drainage and sunshine. I'd team them with Viola labradorica."

## WINTER

**:: Hamamelis (witch hazel):** "You can't have winter without hamamelis. You get perfume, you get a blaze of colour, but it's not heavy-handed. There's a range of different varieties. I love Gingerbread, which is a lovely gingery-orange. I have it against a west-facing wall underplanted with snowdrops and marsh asparagus."

Natural Selection by Dan Pearson is published by Guardian Faber, priced £20 hardback



A pretty sight – Cherry lupine plants can be grown easily from seed

# The cottage garden stalwart that's easy to grow at home

**BEST OF THE BUNCH – Lupin (Lupinus)**  
THEY are the stalwarts of the cottage garden and among the most popular perennials, their spikes of impressive flowers appear in early summer above clumps of palmate leaves. Lupins are also really easy to grow from seed, so save yourself some money next year by sowing seeds under glass in spring. Lupins come in a huge range of colours and bicolours, last well when cut and are great plant partners for delphiniums and Oriental poppies. They should be deadheaded when the first flowers have finished, to encourage a second flush. Good varieties include the Russell hybrids which grow to around 90cm (3ft) and are among the earliest and most reliable hybrids. Lupins will grow in reasonably fertile, well-drained soil in sun or partial shade. Be warned, though, slugs and snails love them so keep young plants well protected.

**GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Watering veg**  
The watering season has begun in earnest and vegetables will need much of your time. Water them in the evening, when the sun has gone down, to minimise evaporation. If the ground is already really dry, sprinkle the surface before doing the proper watering a few minutes later, once the sprinkled water has penetrated. The first dampening wets the surface and reduces water lost from surface run-off. Obviously, water is all-important to crops, but there are certain vegetables which you shouldn't over-water or they will under-perform. Once established, unless there's a drought, root vegetables such as beetroot and carrot should not be watered, along with perennial crops such as asparagus and globe artichoke. Their roots should go down deep into the soil and will find available moisture. However, you must water all newly planted and sown vegetables for a few weeks until they are established, and those grown in containers, daily, if necessary.

## WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

:: Lift forget-me-nots which have not been used in spring bedding schemes and reset them in a spare corner of the garden.

:: Pinch out young fruit growth on trained fruit trees at the fourth leaf. Leave the leading growth at the end of each stem.

:: Make more sowings of carrots, turnips, beet, lettuce and ridge cucumbers.

# New generation of roses moves into the limelight

Report by Hannah Stephenson

**DAME Judi Dench, Alan Titchmarsh, Mary Berry and other celebrities may all have roses named after them, but many of us have our own favourites, whether it be for blooms or fragrance.**

Personally, I love Gertrude Jekyll, the velvety rich pink variety from Shropshire-based David Austin I have growing in a border with large-flowered pink striped Nelly Moser clematis, the waft of fragrance hitting me every time I walk past it in the cool of the morning.

It's ironic though, that the headiest scents, which usually come from the deeper, richer-coloured blousy bloomed varieties, are often more attractive to people than they are to pollinating insects, which tend to go for the simpler forms with paler colours, which in turn tend to be less strongly scented.

Breeders have worked long and hard over the years to develop roses that combine visual splendour with fragrance, yet it is a complex job. Rose growers know that you can combine two fantastically fragrant parents and produce a seedling with no scent at all.

Also, some roses with amazing perfumes such as "Whisky Mac" may struggle to make it through a harsh British winter. So your first priority is to choose a rose that is healthy and with good vigour.

They prefer rich soil in a sunny site and plenty of added organic matter, because roses are hungry feeders. If you can, improve your soil the previous winter with well-rotted manure and apply a dry feed in early spring and again in early summer.

Place your roses where you will be able to enjoy their fragrance, perhaps near a bench or climbing over an arbour where you sit in the morning, when the fragrance tends to be strongest.

Don't relegate prize specimens to the back of the garden where you won't venture to appreciate their beauty and fragrance.

Here are some of the new roses launched at this year's Chelsea Flower Show to look out for:

## JANE AUSTEN ROSE

A bright orange floribunda rose, selected by the Jane Austen's House Museum to mark the 200th anniversary of the author's death this year. The bright orange colour was chosen to reflect the vibrancy of Austen's characters, while its light and sweet scent and the depth of colour radiates warmth. (Harkness, www.roses.co.uk)

## DAME JUDI DENCH ("AUSQUAKER")

Named after one of Britain's most beloved stars of stage and screen, this apricot-coloured rose has blooms that are resistant to rain damage and a medium-strong fragrance that experts have described as combining classic tea with a fresh note of cucumber and a hint of kiwi. It's a vigorous grower, producing strong, arching stems which, over time, form an attractive mound of blooms. (David Austin,



Dame Judi Dench holding an apricot rose named after her as it was launched by Shropshire grower David Austin Roses at Chelsea



The Jane Austen rose from Harkness

Albrighton, www.davidaustinroses.co.uk)

## PAPWORTH'S PRIDE

This pretty addition to a Modern Classic collection bears clusters of large raspberry red, peony style flowers that unfold to reveal bright yellow anthers that are a magnet to insects.

Intensely perfumed with bright, glossy, mid-green foliage, this medium-sized shrub



The Vanessa Bell rose from David Austin Roses

looks great planted en masse, in the middle of a herbaceous border or grown simply in a tub as a specimen plant to enhance a patio or paved area. (Peter Beales, www.classicroses.co.uk)

## VANESSA BELL (AUSEASEL)

This English musk hybrid with rounded, pink tinged-buds opening to reveal deep, medium-sized soft-lemon yellow cups in

large, open clusters, is named after the artist, designer and founder member of the Bloomsbury Group, Vanessa Bell - sister of Virginia Woolf.

Ten per cent from the sale of each rose will be donated to The Charleston Trust, Vanessa's former home, now managed and conserved by the charity for the benefit of the public. (www.davidaustinroses.com)

# Astonishing Knife Angel sculpture spreads its wings



Easy does it – the Knife Angel is slowly and carefully moved from the studio

IT has taken two years to create and has already come to be seen as a national monument against knife crime.

The Shropshire Knife Angel sculpture has finally flown free from the shackles of the studio that it has been in since its inception in 2015.

Now proudly standing outside at the British Ironwork Centre the sculpture is being admired by visitors each day.

The delicate job of craning the 25 foot sculpture from the workshop near Oswestry was watched with some trepidation by bosses at the ironwork centre, some of the families who have written personal inscriptions on individual blades and the sculptor, Alfie Bradley.

He single-handedly created the huge angel from 100,000 blades that had been confiscated by police forces across Britain or posted into



The Knife Angel slowly appears from the studio near Oswestry where it was built

knife banks in towns and cities across the country.

Alfie also had the task of having to clean each knife.

"It is a memorial to those whose lives have been affected by knife crime and, as the sculptor I have been privileged to meet many families who have been directly affected and who wanted to put their own message onto a blade,"

he said. "Seeing the sculpture craned out of the workshop was a relief. It has been two years in the making and it is time that it can be seen by the public."

Clive Knowles, chairman of the British Ironwork Centre is now hoping that an application to have the sculpture on public display on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square will be successful.

## Businessman makes animal care appeal

A BUSINESS owner who takes in unwanted animals is calling on the Government to tackle the "disgraceful" number of animals being thrown out by families.

David Riley, a zoologist, who owns Zoosbury at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry, believes the number of people throwing away pets is increasing, as animals have become a "commodity" to people.

His business takes in unwanted and abandoned animals every week, which they then offer a home to for life.

However he said only a certain amount of animals and pets can be offered a new home, as the number of abandoned pets is constantly rising.

He said: "As a child I was told that 'we are nation of animal lovers' and I believed that."

"There was never any thought of giving up an animal if we lost interest or couldn't be bothered with it and I'm sure it wouldn't have been allowed unless there was no other option."

"We now sadly live in this 'throw-away society' for most things, but even more so, for animals."

Mr Riley believes the problems are with individual breeders passing around animals without a care for the actual animal. He wants the number of breeders reduced to tackle the problem.

He said: "Breeding is not the romantic thing most people imagine, nothing could be further from the truth, it is stressful for both parties involved and can be very traumatic."

"Animals have sadly become a commodity to many people which are bred, bought and sold with no thinking that these are living, breathing creatures with feelings, emotions and needs."

# Bikers are riding high at venue's penny farthing event



The cyclists get on their marks at the British Ironwork Centre



Ben Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre with Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt and cyclists

**Report by Sophie Madden**

**IT'S one of the quirkiest modes of transport out there.**

And scores of people took to their penny farthing bicycle for a race.

Held at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry, the races saw people from across the country sit atop the bicycles and race around the park in Aston.

The event was hailed as a success by the venue, with Councillor Vince Hunt, Mayor of Oswestry, starting the race and also having a go on two wheels himself.

A spokesman for the British Ironwork Centre said: "The race saw everyone with a penny farthing taking to the line to ride twice around the course, to really give the crowds a spectacle. With so many races held for our racers, the riders were keen to get started." Everyone who completed the half-mile course was given a free T-shirt and lunch at the centre, which has begun holding a series of quirky events throughout the year.

And it seems members of the public who attended the event had a great time too. Donna Devey Tomkins said: "We came and had a lovely couple of hours. Wasn't expecting an event, we had come to see the Knife Angel so a pleasant surprise. Thank you."

Sarah Holden added it was a beautiful day and paid tribute to the excellent helpful staff and car marshals.

The penny farthing was popular until the development of the safety bicycle in the 1880s. It was the first machine to be called a "bicycle". Although the name "penny farthing" is now the most common, it was probably not used until the machines were nearly outdated; the first recorded print reference is from 1891 in *Bicycling News*. It comes from the British penny and farthing coins, one much larger than the other.



Balance is the key to riding a penny farthing



The sheer size of the bicycles offers a challenge to anyone willing to have a go

## Run issues to be looked at

TEETHING problems over a new half marathon event will be looked at in depth before next year's race is run.

Clive Knowles, chairman of the British Ironwork Centre, attended Oswestry Town Council to ask councillors to get on board and support the 2018 Oswestry Half Marathon.

One councillor said he would not like to put the council's name to the event until some of the issues have been ironed out.

Councillor Duncan Kerr, who ran in the half marathon organised by UK RunChat, said he personally enjoyed the course and said from his point of view it seemed well organised.

"But there obviously are issues such as access and I don't want to put our name to this until they have been addressed," he said.

Councillor Olly Rose said she had been very concerned about some of the stew-arding in the town centre and said she had to step in to help at a three-way junction.

Mr Knowles said: "We will be looking at getting our staff involved with some of the stew-arding. We are brave enough at the British Ironwork Centre to do new things without fear of criticism. Next year we would like to grow the event and would very much like to have the support of the town council."

## Inquests told of bodies discovery

THE inquests into two people found dead at a house in a village near Oswestry have been opened.

Carly Louise Davies, 29, and Vincent Laws, 31, were found dead by police in a property at Erw Wen, Morda, shortly after 6pm on Saturday, April 8.

Assistant coroner Joanne Lees opened both inquests at Shirehall in Shrewsbury. Brief circumstances were given about the deaths.

Police attended an address in Erw Wen and found the bodies of Miss Davies and Mr Laws. Both were confirmed deceased at the scene by a paramedic at 6.01pm. Miss Davies was the occupant of the house, and Mr Laws, 31, was a self-employed builder who lived on the Isle of Wight.

Miss Davies's body was identified by her mother on April 8, and Mr Laws's body was identified on April 11 by his father.

Miss Lees added: "I open the inquests and adjourn them until September 20."

## Landmark target of a new 'BioBlitz'

A LANDMARK survey is set to reveal more about a 3,000-year-old monument's thriving ecology, when conservationists and volunteers take to the ramparts for the Old Oswestry BioBlitz on Saturday.

Microscopes and magnifying glasses at the ready, the BioBlitzers will be counting and recording the hillfort's wildlife during an 18-hour mega session of bug-watching and plant-spotting, from 6am to midnight. Other activities include wildlife art for children and a bug walk at 2pm with entomologist, Will Hawkes.

The findings will provide a vital snapshot of the hillfort's flora and fauna to update natural history records for the site and improve understanding of its ecological mechanisms.

Helpers are still needed for the BioBlitz. Anyone interested, whether they have experience of wildlife surveys or not, should email Clare Knight at [cknight@turnstoneecology.co.uk](mailto:cknight@turnstoneecology.co.uk) or contact Neil Phillips on 07751 160576.

## Growth in profits for Severn Trent

SHROPSHIRE water supplier Severn Trent has delivered a boost to its full-year profits as it reduced the number of leaks and floodings in its network.

Britain's biggest listed water company said underlying pre-tax profit rose 4.3 per cent to £525 million in the year to March as turnover increased by 3.7 per cent – or £66m – to £1.8 billion.

The strong figures come as Severn Trent reported a fall in the number of sewer floodings, supply interruptions and leakages it experienced after spending £680m on its network.

The company also completed the takeover of Dee Valley Water which supplies an area around the border of north Shropshire in the latter part of the period, but the impact of that deal has yet to be fully felt in the results.

# Canal to get share of £350k lottery award

Report by Sue Austin

**THE Montgomery Canal is set to benefit from an environmental award.**

The canal will receive a share of a £350,000 award from the People's Postcode Lottery.

The 33 mile-long canal, which runs from Lower Frankton near Oswestry to Newtown in Mid Wales, is home to otters, several species of dragonflies and rare aquatic plants. It is known as the best site in the world for floating water plantain.

Two sites along the waterway, including the disused Guilsfield arm, are to be improved to attract and preserve the wildlife.

The Canal & River Trust has launched a 12-month nature project to improve vulnerable wildlife habitats across 10 sites totalling 400 hectares.

Making Special Places for Nature spans reservoirs and canals in Mid Wales, Shropshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Greater Manchester, Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Berkshire.

It will benefit water shrews, voles, otters, bats, dragonflies and other fauna and flora.

The trust, which cares for 2,000 miles of canals and 69 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, is appealing to volunteers to join in with the mammoth task.

It hopes to encourage many residents, particularly young people, to roll up their sleeves and get involved in improving their own local nature reserve.

Canal & River Trust ecologist Stuart Moodie said the project will involve a wide range of habitat protection work including bank restoration, shade removal and improvements in water quality.

On the Montgomery Canal the funding will be used to enhance habitats by removal of silt, shade reduction, vegetation management, coppicing and the removal of invasive plants.



The beautiful Montgomery Canal is known as an important haven for wildlife

## Firm helps with slurry energy plan

WHERE there's muck there's money – and also plenty of free electricity.

Farmers can turn the slurry from cow muck into power to run their farm thanks to bio-gas plants.

Shropshire auctioneers, Halls, say they are carrying out farm surveys for company Bioelectric to investigate whether its micro anaerobic digestion plants are suited to dairy farms.

The system, which was developed in Belgium six years ago, is one of the first slurry only anaerobic digestion plants designed specifically for dairy farmers.

It operates solely on fresh slurry which is heated to 42 degrees to produce as much methane as possible. The methane is then used to power generators which in turn produce enough electricity to run the farm.

"What I like about the system is that, aside from electricity, it also produces hot water through the engine cooling system which can be used elsewhere on the farm," said Stuart Richards, a rural chartered surveyor with Halls.

"As a result, the savings an average dairy farmer can make on his energy bills are colossal."

## Safety claims are denied by home

A CARE home where a resident in a wheelchair fell down a flight of cellar stairs has denied failing to ensure the safety of residents and its workers.

Michael Hibbertson died as a result of the incident which happened at The Court, in West Felton, Oswestry, on February 15, 2015. The home's operator Akari Care denied two offences at Shrewsbury Crown Court. The case relates to allegations that the stairs at the property, in Threadneedle Street, were unsafe and a risk to residents and staff. The matter was adjourned until February for a trial.

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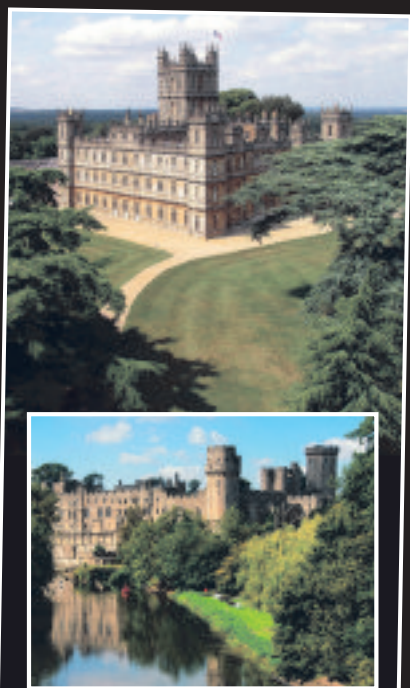
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# All Rise! Antony's back on the stage for thriller

**H**e's best known as the boy band singer who enjoyed hits with Too Close, All Rise and Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word. But before Antony Costa was scoring number one hit singles with the all-conquering Blue he was in fact, a child actor.

One of his earliest roles was a pupil in Steven Moffat's sitcom Chalk and he then went on to appear in the BBC's Grange Hill.

Having surfed the waves of the Blue reunion in recent years, Antony is returning to his roots. He's treading the boards in theatre, starring in Ruth Rendell's A Judgement In Stone. From Monday until July 8, he'll line up alongside a starry cast at Wolverhampton's Grand, featuring Andrew Lancel, Sophie Ward, Mark Wynter, Deborah Grant, Shirley Anne Field and Ben Nealon.

"I'm thrilled," he says. "It's been really, really good. We've had some fantastic reviews and it's a great cast of people."

The Bill Kenwright-produced show builds on the phenomenal decade-long success of The Agatha Christie Company. It is a new production adapted from one of the most celebrated works of the writer often hailed as the successor to Agatha Christie.

The action centres around Eunice, who struggles to fit in. When she joins a wealthy family as their housekeeper the very reason for her awkwardness, long hidden and deeply buried, leads inexorably to a terrible tale of murder in cold blood – on Valentine's Day.

The brilliant plot unravels a lifetime of deceit, despair and cover-ups which, when revealed, brings a shocking revelation almost as grizzly as murder itself.

### THRILLER

Antony loves it. "There's something not quite right with Eunice and no one can see why. But I think what Ruth Rendell did so well was to more or less go on the psychology side of things. Why do these people do it? Why do they murder and everything else? It's a great show, a very fast-moving thriller and people are with us from start to finish."

Though Antony started his career as a child actor, he admits he still has much to learn. And featuring alongside some of the best in the business – like Andrew Lancel – has been inspiring. He's learned much from old hands of the stage and hopes it will hold him in good stead.

"There are a lot of old school people in the show, but for me I'm always learning. If you stop learning, that's the time to quit. For now, I'm loving every minute of it. I hope the people of Wolverhampton do too."

"The thing is that I've always acted. I was a trained actor as a kid. My life went a different direction when I was 18. I loved pop videos and I was so interested in that aspect. When we were in Blue, it wasn't just about turning up, singing your song and going. I wanted to do more. So when this came up and Bill Kenwright called, I jumped at the chance. It gives me another string to my bow."

For a man who's spent most of his life in the spotlight, Antony is enjoying the chance to be out of it. He's very much part of the supporting cast, rather than a lead player, and feels the pressure is off. He

Antony stars alongside former Corrie star Andrew Lancel



can relax into his character and watch as experienced pros lead the line.

He also enjoys the fact that the audience are going to see a play – rather than see him sing. He knows it's about his character, rather than him.

"This gives me a new lease of life. I'm always learning. Nine out of 10 people at a pop concert are there to see me sing. That's why they come. It's about me, rather than the show. But this is the opposite. It's about the show, not me. And that takes the pressure off. My job is simple – I just need to give 110 per cent."

Some things don't change, of course, and Antony is back on the road with the show, just as he was in Blue. He's travelling the length of the country – though his visit to Wolverhampton might be punctuated by an important arrival.

"I love being on the road and I've done it since I was 18. But it will be a weird week in Wolverhampton because my baby is due. If I get the call, I've got to go. For the first couple of days, I'll be there. But then the baby is due on the July 6. So we'll just have to see what happens. But I'm looking forward to the Grand Theatre. I've never been before."

And once A Judgement In Stone is done – and he's finished changing the nappies – he's keen to come back. Antony is open to more stage

*It's about the show, not me. And that takes the pressure off. My job's simple*

work and hopes it'll lead to TV acting roles.

"I want to do more stage work and if TV arose I'd jump on the chance. It all depends on timing or whether the part's right. You never know what's in the audience watching you."

"But I love it mate, I absolutely love it. The cast getting applause at the end is amazing."

"When we used to do a Blue tour, people booked tickets to see us which we were thankful for. But it's different now."

"I could sing a couple of lines of a song to a Blue crowd and they'd cheer. But for me, I like to get into the depth of a character. I like to be someone else for two and a half hours."

Not that Antony's acting ambitions spell the end of Blue. They'll be back every now and then.

"Listen mate, you know, if there's gigs coming up with the boys and the climate's right, we'll do a few shows. If there's an album and it's right, we'll do it."

"But I love being on stage right now and I need this for me."

"I don't want to live with regret because I didn't do this. You got to be selfish and do something yourself once in a while."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Shropshire Star every Friday.

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# TV and soccer stars on their way to town

FOOTBALL and soap opera fans are being reminded that TV and soccer stars are coming to Oswestry for a football match to raise money for charity.

Actors from Emmerdale and Hollyoaks will join forces with former footballers to line up in the Once Upon a Smile Celebrity XI in memory of Zackery Dell, who was born in May 2014 but passed away minutes later.

Emmerdale star Danny Miller, who plays Aaron Livesy in the soap, will be bringing a raft of other stars to Oswestry, to take part in the charity football match on Sunday, at the Venue at Park

Hall, the home of The New Saints Football Club.

This is the third year, the charity fundraising match will take place, and this year organisers are hoping to raise at least £6,000 for charity.

In the two years the matches have been held, nearly £11,000 has been raised for Hope House Children's Hospice, based at Morda near Oswestry, and Once Upon a Smile.

Graeme Sutton, one of the organisers, said both the charities are causes close to both he and his wife's hearts.

He said: "To be involved in

organising this match means a lot to me because it's raising money for two such worthy causes.

"My wife's sister Laura had a baby girl called Freya, who was stillborn, so we know how that can affect someone, and it's heartbreaking, so to be able to help people in some way by raising money through the football matches feels good.

"It's also a good way of reminding people of the work that Hope House does, I think sometimes people forget that they also provide counselling for bereaved families, as well as everything else they do."



## Coming up

### Top artists supporting exhibition

The organisers of Exhibition 2017, an integral part of the Church Stretton Arts Festival, are delighted that David Harban (pictured) and Paul Hipkiss have accepted the invitation to exhibit their fascinating work this year.

Members of the Midland Printmakers group and the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA), David and Paul are the first printmakers to be invited to take the role of guest artists at the exhibition. Their distinctive prints and etchings will be on show in the drama studio at Church Stretton School.

Organisers are delighted to report an expansion of space to accommodate the increased number of craft exhibits which may be entered. Last year saw a variety of work – textile art, metal work, ceramics, woodwork, jewellery, leather work – and they are hoping this year to have an even more impressive display spread over two rooms. There will be a comprehensive display of art and photography.

Sue Hockaday, on behalf of the organisers said "We are delighted to welcome David Harban and Paul Hipkiss and it is especially pleasing to showcase our talented local young artists. Displays of student art work from St Lawrence CE Primary School and Church Stretton School will form part of Exhibition 2017". The Exhibition opening reception will take place on Monday, July 31, at 7:30pm at Church Stretton School.

For more information visit [www.strettonfestival.org.uk](http://www.strettonfestival.org.uk)



# Festival is something to really shout about

**T**here was a right royal ding dong at the launch of this year's Llandrindod Wells Victorian Festival.

There was no escaping the details of the festival as Llandrindod Wells Town Crier Janet Swindale rang her bell and shouted about the August event.

This year's festival will take place from August 21 until 28.

During that eight days the town will once again turn back the clocks to the bygone era.

The event will combine old favourite events and many new activities and entertainment this year with organisers promising there will be something for all the family.

The opening ceremony will take place on August 21 with Queen Victoria and her party promenading from the Metropole Hotel to the entertainment tent in Temple Gardens, led by a Scottish piper.

Throughout the festival there will be the traditional Mr and Mrs Llandrindod Wells fancy dress competitions, children's fancy dress competitions, a Scottish Highland evening and buffet, a historic cycle cavalcade, a tea dance, a Charles Dickens evening performed by the author's great, great grandson Gerald Dickens and a 1940s night.

On Temple Gardens there will be an entertainment tent with various activities, including Alice's Adventures in Llandrindod Wells.

There will opportunities to meet and greet Queen Victoria and take part in best dressed Victorian hat competitions.

A concert by flautist Catherine O'Rourke will take place and the international street organ festival will be staged.

There will be an authentic military encampment, talks, ghost walks, The Ken Richards Commemorative Vintage Vehicle Display, Mardi Gras and a Victorian Grand Etiquette Ball.

The event will end with the Victorian Festival Firework Display.

For more information go to [www.victorian-festival.co.uk](http://www.victorian-festival.co.uk)

Janet Swindale, the town crier, launching the Victorian Festival with chairman Chris Hartley and fellow supporters



## NOTICE BOARD

\* PLANS for a festival weekend in a village near Oswestry are well under way. A host of activities and events will be held at this year's annual Weston Rhyn Festival. On July 14, there will be an exhibition of local crafts, hobbies, art and collections in St John's Church. The opening of the event will be marked by a night with cheese, wine and refreshments, with presentations and performances by local people. On July 15, attractions are open from 1.30pm until 4pm. There will be a car boot sale at The Lodge pub car park, a show in the village hall, a range of fete stalls and other attractions including a bouncy castle, bowling, a raffle and a poetry session. Full details about the show will be announced during the first week of

July. There are a limited number of car boot spaces available which can be reserved by calling in at The Lodge. To take part in the exhibition call (01691) 657655.

\* THE next Pant Village Lunch Club will be held on Tuesday. It gives local people an opportunity to meet, socialise and enjoy a communal meal each month. The idea behind the concept is to give people in the village, and further afield, an informal way to meet up with other people, without having to join or become a member of a formal club. People will just be able to turn up at the Cross Guns

in the village and meet other people. The pub will offer a choice of lunch items at £5 per person which includes a hot lunch, tea or coffee. All ages are welcome.

\* A PRIZE bingo evening will be held on Tuesday in the Corn Exchange at Welshpool at 7pm, doors open at 6.30pm. As the date is also American Independence Day the organisers are looking to give the event an American theme along with coffee and donuts being served at half time. Admission is £1.

\* A TALK entitled The Ghost of Dylan Thomas will be given by Peter Read to the Oswestry Borders U3A group on Wednesday. Mr Read is a full-time writer – ghost writer, playwright, and

poet. He has many and varied writing credits including in 2008 his own one man show entitled Dylan's Final Journey. He received five star reviews for his depiction of Thomas at the Edinburgh Festival in two successive years. In 2014 he was selected as one of the writers in Wales to deliver the schools' project, Delivering Dylan, as part of the centenary celebrations of Dylan's birth. Oswestry Borders U3A speaker meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Oswestry Senior Citizens Club premises in Lorne Street. Doors open at 1.45pm for the 2pm to 4pm meeting, and the £1 entrance fee includes refreshments. For more information people can visit [www.oswestrybordersu3a.wordpress.com](http://www.oswestrybordersu3a.wordpress.com) or call (01691) 661104

### Treat for Depeche Mode fans

Depeche Mode will be playing at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham as part of their forthcoming tour.

The band will be playing four indoor shows in November.

These new autumn dates will give the band the opportunity to play to fans in the UK and for fans to see the tour that critics have hailed as a "sensational triumph" and the band Mixmag describes as "apocalyptically thrilling on the live stage."

The summer European leg of the Global Spirit Tour has brought the band to sold-out stadiums across Eastern and Western Europe.

The tour will then hop across the Atlantic to North America for 30 shows in August, September and October, before continuing to stadiums in Latin America in March 2018.

The Global Spirit Tour supports the band's 14th studio album, Spirit, released on March 17 via Columbia Records.

The album's powerful and timely first single, "Where's The Revolution", has been well-received by critics and fans alike, lauded as a strong "return to form" for Depeche Mode.

Spirit has already garnered critical acclaim, with MOJO calling it "blow by blow... Depeche Mode's best album in years."

Spirit is available now from digital retailers: [smarturl.it/Spirit](http://smarturl.it/Spirit). Tickets for the Barclaycard Arena date are on general sale now via [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com) or by calling 0844 3388222.



### Human League at racecourse gig

One of the biggest bands of the 80s will be giving fans Electric Dreams when they perform at a racecourse.

Synth pop legends The Human League will rock out following a race meeting on September 9.

The new wave outfit, led by Phil Oakey, will play as part of The SunBets Music Live 2017 at Wolverhampton Racecourse.

The band, famed for their cross-Atlantic number one hit Don't You Want Me – which sold more than 20 million records – will play their classic 1980s hits including Being Boiled, Mirror Man, Fascination, The Lebanon and Human.

The group last played in the city in December 2014, when they appeared at the Civic Hall.

Fans heading to the upcoming show can expect more of the same. The Human League have returned to the area in recent years, but this will be their third show in the city since that 2014 gig. They performed at Uttoxeter Racecourse last year, marking 35 years since the release of their best-selling album Dare!

Tickets to the racecourse evening, followed by the live outdoor performance from Human League, range from £19 to £95. They are now on sale and can be bought directly from the Racecourse by calling 01902 390 000.

Alternatively visit people can buy them online at [wolverhampton-race-course.co.uk](http://wolverhampton-race-course.co.uk)





**Pitch Battle**  
7.30pm  
Mel Giedroyc hosts the music contest. This time, Kings College London's All the King's Men, Polish jazz ensemble Alle Choir, the London International Gospel Choir, all-female soul act Songbird Sessions, Welsh choir Sgarmes, and the newly formed 4 Tune Tellers and Kimmy all seek to impress the judges.



**Dad's Army**  
8.30pm  
Frazer is asked to look after the platoon's Lewis gun, but finds himself in hot water when he misplaces the spring – and fears it is has been left inside a coffin. Second World War comedy first shown in 1969, starring John Laurie, Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier.



**The Voice Kids**  
7.30pm  
The junior version of the singing talent contest continues, as Emma Willis ushers more youngsters between the ages of eight and 14 to the stage for a chance at stardom. The Blind Auditions conclude this week, and the pressure is on for judges Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott to finish filling their teams.



**The Autistic Gardener**  
7pm  
Alan Gardner comes to the aid of two families in London that are seeking to transform their adjoining back gardens into one big playground for their children. Plus, Alan heads to Austin, Texas, where he finds an unusual source of inspiration for this project – in the form of a jumbo jet engine.



**Blind Date**  
7pm  
Paul O'Grady seeks a would-be sweetheart for Arnold, who emigrated from Africa to Manchester, and served with the British Army in Afghanistan for nearly five years. Arnold's idea of a perfect date would involve a spin on the London Eye, and Paul gives three ladies a chance to woo the gentlemanly soldier.

BBC1

6.00

Breakfast.

10.00

**Saturday Kitchen Live.** The Hairy Bikers Si King and Dave Myers serve as hosts this weekend, inviting guest Alex James to sample dishes prepared in the studio by chefs Tim Siadatan and Elizabeth Haigh.

11.30

**Mary Berry Cooks.** The food writer demonstrates recipes for a large gathering of guests, including beef and mushroom stew, salmon en croute, chocolate and orange panna cotta and a meringue tranche. (R)

12.00

**BBC News;** Weather.

12.15

**Tennis from Eastbourne.** The AEGON International. John Inverdale presents coverage of the final from the Devonshire Park Lawn Tennis Club in Eastbourne, on the concluding day of the tournament.

3.00

**Escape to the Country.** Jules Hudson tries to help two sisters who dream of escaping their urban homes and moving to the Devon countryside on a budget of £249,000. (R)

3.30

**FILM: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989).** The intrepid archaeologist sets out to find his father, who has gone missing while searching for the Holy Grail. Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery.

5.25

**BBC News.**

5.35

**Midlands Today; Weather.**

5.45

**Pointless Celebrities.** Louis Theroux and Nancy Strang, Michael Underwood and Angellica Bell, Calum and Angie Best, and Gary and Harry Lineker take part in a family-themed edition of the quiz. (R)

6.30

**Doctor Who.** The Cybermen rise as the Doctor makes a final stand to protect a tiny band of humans. Peter Capaldi, Pearl Mackie, Matt Lucas, Michelle Gomez and John Simm star. Last in the series.

7.30

**Pitch Battle.** Six more choirs and vocal groups seek to impress Gareth Malone, Kelis and guest judge Bebe Rexha, as Mel Giedroyc hosts the third round of heats.

9.00

**Casualty.** Sam steps down as medical director to take a more hands-on role in the ED, and a feisty patient pushes Dylan over the edge as he struggles to cope in the wake of Cal's death.

9.50

**BBC News;** Weather; **National Lottery Update.**

10.10

**FILM: Avengers Assemble (2012).** A mystical artefact is stolen from a top-secret military base by Thor's brother Loki, who plans to use it to bring about an alien invasion. Spymaster Nick Fury brings together a team of superheroes, including Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and the Hulk, to defend Earth from the impending attack. Action adventure uniting the Marvel comic-book characters, starring Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hiddleston, Jeremy Renner and Samuel L Jackson.

12.25

**Weather for the Week Ahead.**

12.30

**BBC News.**

BBC2

6.10

**A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter T. (R)

6.55

**FILM: Carnival Story (1954).** Drama, starring Anne Baxter.

8.30

**FILM: The Maggie (1954).** Ealing comedy, with Paul Douglas.

10.00

**Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape.** Monty tries to track dolphins using sonar technology. (R)

11.00

**Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties about to be auctioned in Derbyshire, Kent and Suffolk. (R)

12.00

**Food & Drink.** Tony Singh prepares a seasonal feast of venison with haggis ravioli. (R)

12.30

**Bargain Hunt.** Two teams select antiques for auction in Newark, Nottinghamshire. (R)

1.15

**Peter O'Toole: Talking Pictures.** A profile of Peter O'Toole. (R)

2.00

**FILM: Kidnapped (1960).** Historical adventure, starring Peter Finch.

3.30

**Money for Nothing.** Sarah Moore seeks to turn a profit on seven rusty chairs and an old leather sofa. (R)

4.15

**Flog It!** The team visit Blackpool Tower Circus. (R)

5.00

**Gardeners' World.** Rachel de Thame investigates how gardeners can aid honey bee conservation. (R)

6.00

**The Day the Dinosaurs Died.** An expedition to determine if an asteroid strike 66 million years ago triggered a catastrophe that killed off the dinosaurs and wiped out 75 per cent of all life on Earth. (R)

7.00

**Nature's Wildest Weapons: Horns, Tusks and Antlers: Natural World.** Professor Doug Emlen examines how animals use their bodies as weapons, from elephants to rhinoceros beetles, assessing whether they are more than just instruments of blunt force. (R)

8.00

**Manchester International Festival: Everyone Welcome.** Lemn Sissay tours Manchester's biennial international arts festival, which features more than 60 new works by local and international artists.

8.30

**Dad's Army.** Frazer is asked to look after the platoon's Lewis gun, but finds himself in hot water when he misplaces the spring – and fears it is has been left inside a coffin. (R)

9.00

**Melvyn Bragg on TV: The Box that Changed the World.** Melvyn Bragg is joined by celebrity guests as he explores the impact television has made on British culture since the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

11.00

**FILM: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll (2010).** Biopic of influential punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner.

12.50

**FILM: The Deep (2012).** A trawler crewman swims to shore after his vessel capsizes, but is tormented by survivors' guilt. Fact-based drama, with Olafur Darri Olafsson.

2.20

**This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV

6.00

**CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**

6.10

**Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**

6.20

**Sooty**

6.30

**Signed Stories: Share a Story**

6.35

**Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures**

7.00

**Oddbods**

7.05

**Super 4**

7.20

**Marvel Avengers Assemble**

7.45

**Thunderbirds Are Go**

8.10

**Ben 10**

8.25

**ITV News.**

8.30

**Weekend.** With guests Melvyn Bragg, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott.

9.25

**The Home Game.** A young Twickenham couple blow their budget out of the water with a £30,000 bathroom makeover, while a mother and daughter have their granny annex transformed. (R)

10.25

**FILM: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001).** An orphaned boy with magical powers enrolls at a special school for young wizards. First in the fantasy adventure series, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Alan Rickman and Richard Harris.

1.15

**ITV News and Weather:** Weather.

1.30

**ITV Racing: Live from Newcastle.** Ed Chamberlin presents coverage of two meetings. From Newcastle, races start at 1.50, 2.25, 3.00 and 3.30. From Newmarket, at 2.05, 2.40 and 3.15.

4.00

**The Chase.** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz expert the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

5.00

**Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** A greyhound that has damaged its tail through too much wagging. (R)

5.30

**Little Big Shots US.** New series. American version of the junior talent show.

6.25

**ITV News Central;** Weather.

6.35

**ITV News and Weather.**

6.45

**Catchphrase.** Three more contestants join Stephen Mulhern to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30

**The Voice Kids.** The junior version of the talent contest continues, as coaches Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott their last Blind Auditions as they recruit more young singers to their teams.

9.00

**FILM: Quantum of Solace (2008).** James Bond sets out on a personal mission of vengeance and uncovers a plan to cause a coup in a Latin American country. Spy thriller sequel, with Daniel Craig and Olga Kurylenko.

11.05

**ITV News and Weather:** Weather.

11.25

**Rebound.** Sean Fletcher hosts the quizfire quiz that tests the general knowledge of six contestants, who go head to head in a bid to walk away with a big cash prize. (R)

12.25

**Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

3.00

**Who's Doing the Dishes?** Chef Antony Worrall Thompson hosts a dinner party for four guests, who will win a cash prize if they can guess his identity from cryptic culinary clues. (R)

Channel 4

6.10

**3rd Rock from the Sun.** Dick finds the secret of happiness. (R)

6.35

**Mobil 1 The Grid.** Including action from the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

7.05

**Motor Sport: Ypres Rally.** Action from round four of the British Rally Championship.

7.35

**Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra's constant lateness angers Ray. (R)

8.00

**Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra wants to buy an expensive dress for Ally. (R)

8.25

**Frasier.** Niles and Frasier return to their childhood home. (R)

8.55

**Frasier.** The shrink makes a truce with his neighbour. (R)

9.30

**Frasier.** The shrink is reunited with his old Cheers gang. (R)

10.00

**The Big Bang Theory.** The boys take up fencing. (R)

10.25

**The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard and Sheldon need helium – and fast. (R)

10.55

**The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon is interviewed for a Star Trek documentary. (R)

11.20

**The Simpsons.** Homer traces his long-lost half-brother. (R)

11.50

**The Simpsons.** With the guest voice of Tracey Ullman. (R)

12.20

**The Simpsons.** Homer plays matchmaker for Marge's sister. (R)

12.50

**Four in a Bed.** The competition kicks off at Keats Cottage in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight. (R)

1.25

**Four in a Bed.** The second visit is to Jasmine House in Lutterworth, Leicestershire. (R)

1.55

**Four in a Bed.** The third day takes place at Halliwell House in Cheshire. (R)

2.30

**Four in a Bed.** The guests stay at Soar Chapel Guest House in Wales. (R)

3.00

**Four in a Bed.** The B&B owners meet for the last time. (R)

3.35

**A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Laura Hamilton helps a woman find a home in Spain. (R)

4.35

**Big House, Little House.** Renovating period properties in Edinburgh and Matlock, Derbyshire.

5.35

**Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It.** A couple undecided about their three-bed semi in Stirlingshire. (R)

6.30

**Channel 4 News.**

7.00

**The Autistic Gardener.** Alan Gardner plans to transform two adjoining back gardens into one big playground, and finds an unusual source of inspiration during a trip to Texas. Last in the series.

8.00

**FILM: Life of Pi (2012).** A man recounts the story of how he survived adrift at sea following a shipwreck, his only companion a ferocious tiger. Adventure, starring Suraj Sharma and Irrfan Khan.

10.25

**FILM: Last Vegas (2013).** Four sixtiesomething friends decide to relive their wild youth with a trip to Las Vegas. Comedy, with Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline.

12.30

**Ramsay's Hotel Hell.** (R)

1.15

**Hollyoaks.**

3.15

**Ackley Bridge.** (R)

4.10

**Location, Location, Location.** (R)

5.05

**Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.** (R)

5.15

**Fifteen to One.** (R)

Channel 5

6.00

**Milkshake!:** Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Milkshake! **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box **6.20** The Mr Men Show **6.30** Peppa Pig **6.35** Peppa Pig **6.40** Wissper **6.50** Paw Patrol **7.00** Bob the Builder **7.10** Fireman Sam **7.20** Olly the Little White Van **7.30** Olly the Little White Van **7.35** Paw Patrol **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective **8.30** Wissper **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.55** Shimmer and Shine **9.20** Little Princess **9.40** Peppa Pig **9.50** Peppa Pig **9.55** Peppa Pig **10.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom

10.15

**Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R)

10.50

**Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2.** (R)

11.15

**Police Interceptors.** (R)

12.10

**Police Interceptors.** Officers come under attack from a gang of violent armed robbers. (R)

1.10

**The Great British Benefits Handout.** Tony and son Michael buy stock for their secondhand business in Hull. (R)

2.10

**The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** An Egyptian family who suffered racial abuse from their neighbour. (R)

3.10

**The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** Disputes between people whose houses border each another. (R)

4.05

**Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Stewart and Vic become party to a fractured family's school fee woes. (R)

5.00

**Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Paul Bohill tackles the case of a small debt owed by ex-footballer Neil Ruddock. (R)

5.15

**News Weekend.**

6.00

**Funnies Dogs Behaving Badly.** (R)

7.00

**Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady helps a gentlemanly soldier and a bubbly finance director – both from Manchester – find would be sweethearts from among three potential suitors.

8.00

**Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!** Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end.

9.00

**Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.05

**Moments That Rocked Talent Shows.** A journey through the instances that rocked the genre and the fall-out that followed. Clips feature Will Young, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Susan Boyle and Lena Zavaroni. (R)

11.30

**Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter.** Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as comedian Rufus Hound and actress Jorgie Porter go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)

11.55

**Access.** Showbiz news and gossip.

12.00

**SuperCasino.**

3.10

**FILM: Vampire Academy (2014).** Premiere. Fantasy, starring Zoey Deutch.

4.50

**Great Artists.** (R)

5.15

**Wildlife SOS.** (R)

5.40

**Angels of Jarm.** (R)

5.50

**Roary the Racing Car.** (R)



**Antiques Roadshow**  
8pm  
Fiona Bruce introduces a selection of unscreened items from recent shows. Among the fascinating finds are a garnet and diamond cross believed by the owner to have been gifted by Marie Antoinette en route to the guillotine, and a suitcase of unopened letters from an imprisoned First World War soldier.



**Athletics: World Championship Team Trials**  
1pm  
Gabby Logan presents live coverage of day two from Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, where Britain's best athletes will try to qualify for the IAAF World Championships in Athletics, which is due to take place at The Olympic Stadium in London next Month.



**The Loch**  
9.30pm  
Craig Petrie becomes a suspect in both murders, and Blake assists in questioning him. However, he quickly turns the tables on the police and casts doubt on Leighton's innocence. Annie investigates his claims further, and her loyalty to Leighton is shaken when she discovers his alibi is a lie.



**The Handmaid's Tale**  
9pm  
When a trade delegation from Mexico comes to Gilead, Offred discovers several shocking secrets. Serena Joy reflects on her marriage and the role she played in Gilead's inception. Drama based on the novel by Margaret Atwood, starring Elisabeth Moss and Yvonne Strahovski.



**OMG**  
10.05pm  
The story of a woman who has made several extreme changes to her body, including amputating a finger. Plus, a man who has had 85 body piercings and is now preparing to experiment with scarification and a competitive body builder with tattoos over 90 per cent of his body.

BBC1	
6.00	<b>Breakfast.</b>
9.00	<b>The Andrew Marr Show.</b>
10.00	<b>Sunday Morning Live.</b> Topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panellists and contributions from viewers.
11.00	<b>Sunday Politics West Midlands.</b> The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
12.15	<b>Bargain Hunt.</b> Experts Charles Hanson and Charlie Ross guide two teams around the Ardingly Antiques and collectors fair, where host Tim Wonnacott spots a rare pair of silver salt cellars. (R)
1.00	<b>BBC News;</b> Weather.
1.15	<b>Homes Under the Hammer.</b> Properties in Yorkshire, Cornwall and London. (R)
2.00	<b>Money for Nothing.</b> Transforming a post-war table, a used suitcase and an old radio. (R)
2.45	<b>Escape to the Country.</b> Jonnie Irwin heads to rural Lincolnshire to help two canal boat enthusiasts find a home to suit their lives on dry land. Away from the house hunt, he helps power up a windmill. (R)
3.45	<b>Eat Well for Less?</b> Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin help the Brook family from Nottingham lower their food bills, and show them ways to follow a healthier diet while saving money on their weekly shop. (R)
4.45	<b>Songs of Praise.</b> Aled Jones visits Chatsworth House for its first ever flower show.
5.20	<b>Sue Barker: Our Wimbledon.</b> The presenter travels the globe meeting Wimbledon greats such as Andy Murray, Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova.
6.35	<b>BBC News.</b>
6.50	<b>Midlands Today;</b> Weather.
7.00	<b>Countryside.</b> Ellie Harrison meets a family making cordials and presses using their own elderflowers, and visits Worcester Cathedral to catch a glimpse of its lesser horseshoe bat population.
8.00	<b>Antiques Roadshow.</b> Fiona Bruce introduces unscreened items from recent shows, including a garnet and diamond cross believed to have been gifted by Marie Antoinette en route to the guillotine.
9.00	<b>Poldark.</b> A grain ship is raided by starving villagers, and George arranges a harsh punishment for them. Ross is not convinced by news that the British officers are to be set free.
10.00	<b>BBC News.</b>
10.20	<b>Midlands Today;</b> Weather.
10.30	<b>Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show.</b> A filmed performance of stand-up comedy, sketches, songs and dance, from the comedian's nationwide tour. (R)
11.30	<b>The Week the Landlords Moved In.</b> A transformative series challenging some of Britain's most successful landlords to spend an eye-opening week living in one of their own rental properties. (R)
12.30	<b>Weather for the Week Ahead.</b>
12.35	<b>BBC News.</b>

BBC2	
6.20	<b>The Instant Gardener.</b> An exotic garden in Croydon. Last in the series. (R)
7.05	<b>Gardeners' World.</b> Rachel de Thame investigates how gardeners can aid honey bee conservation. (R)
8.05	<b>The Beechgrove Garden.</b> Jim McColl investigates the mysterious death of a hedge.
8.35	<b>Countryside.</b> Reports from the series featuring working animals. (R)
9.35	<b>Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.</b> Highlights of the series.
11.05	<b>Wimbledon 2016 Review.</b> A look back at last year's tournament at the All England Club.
12.00	<b>Athletics: Diamond League Highlights.</b> The Meeting de Paris.
1.00	<b>Athletics: World Championship Team Trials.</b> Live coverage of day two from Alexander Stadium in Birmingham.
5.00	<b>Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods Are Made.</b> The production and history of milk. (R)
6.00	<b>The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway: The Final Countdown.</b> Part one of two. Return of the documentary about the construction of the Crossrail train line, following engineers and construction workers as they race to complete it in time. (R)
7.00	<b>Dragons' Den.</b> The panel assesses more money-spinning ideas, including an unusual coffee lid, a range of coconut-based products, and a safety device for hairstyling gadgets. Evan Davis presents. (R)
8.00	<b>The Life Swap Adventure.</b> A daredevil Tennessee cowboy and a fun-loving Welsh office worker – both heirs to their lucrative family businesses – trade places hoping to find a new perspective on their lives.
9.00	<b>FILM: George Best: All By Himself (2016).</b> The story of the reserved young prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar with Manchester United, but whose career was cut short by his battle with alcohol.
10.30	<b>Mock the Week.</b> Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Milton Jones, Nish Kumar and Roshan Ranganathan join Dara O Briain and Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)
11.05	<b>White Gold.</b> Vincent finds himself kicked out of his family home, and Lavender is drawn back into the world of rock and roll as he has his own career crisis. (R)
11.35	<b>FILM: Burke &amp; Hare (2010).</b> Two 19th-century grave robbers resort to murder to provide a doctor with fresh bodies for his anatomy lectures. Comedy horror, with Simon Pegg, Andy Serkis and Tom Wilkinson.
1.00	<b>Sign Zone: Question Time.</b> Topical debate from Hastings, East Sussex, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
2.00	<b>Sign Zone: Holby City.</b> Jac buries herself in work, determined to save the life of a scared and fatalistic patient, while Sacha is forced to confront his faith when his mother sets him up on a blind date. (R)
3.00	<b>This Is BBC2.</b> Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	<b>CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids</b>
6.10	<b>Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids</b>
6.20	<b>Sooty</b>
6.30	<b>Signed Stories: Share a Story</b>
6.35	<b>Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures</b>
6.50	<b>Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures</b>
7.00	<b>Oddbods</b>
7.05	<b>Super 4</b>
7.20	<b>Marvel Avengers Assemble</b>
7.45	<b>Thunderbirds Are Go</b>
8.10	<b>Ben 10</b>
8.25	<b>ITV News.</b>
8.30	<b>Weekend.</b> With guests Jane Asher and Callum Beattie.
9.25	<b>Judge Rinder.</b> Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
10.20	<b>Judge Rinder.</b> Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
11.20	<b>Tipping Point.</b> Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz show, in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot. (R)
12.25	<b>ITV News and Weather;</b> Weather.
12.35	<b>Babushka.</b> Game show, hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal. (R)
1.35	<b>The Voice Kids.</b> The junior version of the talent contest continues, as coaches Will.I.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott their last Blind Auditions as they recruit more young singers to their teams. (R)
3.05	<b>Bear Grylls Survival School.</b> Children are taught to survive in the wild. (R)
3.30	<b>FILM: Hulk (2003).</b> Exposure to radiation transforms a scientist into a formidable green monster. Comic-strip adventure from director Ang Lee, starring Eric Bana, Jennifer Connelly and Sam Elliott.
6.05	<b>ITV News Central;</b> Weather.
6.15	<b>ITV News and Weather.</b>
6.30	<b>Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup.</b> Portugal or Chile v Germany or Mexico (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the final from Saint Petersburg Stadium in Russia. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
9.30	<b>The Loch.</b> Annie's loyalty to Leighton is shaken when she realises his alibi is a lie. Craig Petrie becomes a suspect, but he quickly turns the tables on the police under questioning.
10.30	<b>ITV News and Weather;</b> Weather.
10.50	<b>Lethal Weapon.</b> As Riggs' attachment to Karen Palmer deepens, so do his impulsive actions – a cause of further concern for Captain Avery. Clayne Crawford and Kevin Rahm star. (R)
11.45	<b>Take Me Out.</b> A model, a circus performer, a football coach and a salesman try to get the female participants to keep their lights on. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)
12.40	<b>Jackpot247.</b> Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	<b>Motorsport UK.</b> Richard John Neil presents action from Oulton Park, featuring the Ginetta Juniors and the Renault Clio Cup.
3.50	<b>ITV Nightscreen.</b>
5.05	<b>The Jeremy Kyle Show.</b> The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues. (R)

Channel 4	
6.10	<b>3rd Rock from the Sun.</b> Part one of two. Guest starring John Cleese. (R)
6.35	<b>3rd Rock from the Sun.</b> Part two of two. Guest starring John Cleese. (R)
7.00	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Robert contemplates leaving the police force. (R)
7.30	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Ray hurts Debra's feelings. (R)
7.55	<b>Frasier.</b> The shrink struggles to reach a new audience. (R)
8.25	<b>Frasier.</b> Roz goes to a family reunion. (R)
8.55	<b>Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley.</b> Recipes include the sisters' signature mung bean dahl. Last in the series.
9.30	<b>Sunday Brunch.</b> With guests Olly Murs, Vicky Pattison and the Vamps.
12.30	<b>Eat the Week.</b> Simon Rimmer answers an SOS from the super-busy Scarfe family in Huntington.
1.30	<b>George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.</b> A man planning to build a Victorian-style bathing machine in Margate. (R)
2.30	<b>FILM: Dante's Peak (1997).</b> Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan.
4.35	<b>A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.</b> Scarlett Douglas helps a retired woman find a holiday home on the Costa Blanca. (R)
5.35	<b>Homes by the Sea.</b> Exploring some of the best coastal homes in north Devon.
6.30	<b>Channel 4 News.</b>
7.00	<b>Grand Designs.</b> Kevin McCloud follows software executive Andy and garden designer Nicki, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. (R)
8.00	<b>Dunkirk: The New Evidence.</b> Documentary examining the famous Second World War evacuation of Allied soldiers – codenamed Operation Dynamo – from the beaches of Dunkirk, France, between May 26 and June 4, 1940.
9.00	<b>The Handmaid's Tale.</b> When a trade delegation from Mexico comes to Gilead, Offred discovers several shocking secrets. Serena Joy reflects on her marriage and the role she played in Gilead's inception.
10.15	<b>8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.</b> Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David O'Doherty take on Johnny Vegas and Jamie Laing. Holly Walsh helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)
11.10	<b>FILM: Trance (2013).</b> A hypnotist helps an amnesiac art dealer remember where he hid a painting stolen from his own auction house. Crime thriller, starring James McAvoy and Rosario Dawson.
1.00	<b>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.</b> (R)
1.50	<b>The Last Leg.</b> A comic review of the past seven days. (R)
2.45	<b>KOTV Boxing Weekly.</b>
3.15	<b>Gillette World Sport.</b>
3.40	<b>Mobil 1 The Grid.</b> (R)
4.10	<b>Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.</b> Three couples struggling to sell their properties in Barnet and Enfield.
5.05	<b>Location, Location, Location.</b> (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	<b>Milkshake!:</b> Pip Ahoy! <b>6.10 Milkshake! Monkey</b> <b>6.15 Milkshake! Bop Box</b> <b>6.20 Mr Men</b> <b>6.30 Peppa Pig</b> <b>6.35 Peppa Pig</b> <b>6.40 Wissper</b> <b>6.50 Paw Patrol</b> <b>7.00 Bob the Builder</b> <b>7.15 Fireman Sam</b> <b>7.25 Olly the Little White Van</b> <b>7.30 Olly the Little White Van</b> <b>7.35 Paw Patrol</b> <b>7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines</b> <b>8.10 Noddy: Toyland Detective</b> <b>8.25 Wissper</b> <b>8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom</b> <b>8.55 Shimmer and Shine</b> <b>9.15 Little Princess</b> <b>9.30 Peppa Pig</b> <b>9.40 Peppa Pig</b> <b>9.50 Peppa Pig</b> <b>10.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom</b>
10.15	<b>Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.</b> Shredder is mutated to become more powerful than ever.
10.55	<b>The Gadget Show.</b> Gadgets for this summer's music festivals. Last in the series. (R)
11.45	<b>Police Interceptors.</b> Jim leads a raid on a suspected drug dealer. (R)
12.40	<b>Police Interceptors.</b> Tim and Tom team up with Merseyside police to raid a house in Liverpool. (R)
1.40	<b>Police Interceptors.</b> Dog handler Bob hunts down a suspected knifeman. (R)
2.40	<b>FILM: Made of Honor (2008).</b> Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan.
4.40	<b>FILM: 13 Going on 30 (2004).</b> Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo.
5.40	<b>5 News Update.</b>
5.45	<b>FILM: 13 Going on 30 (2004).</b> Concluded.
6.30	<b>FILM: The Flintstones (1994).</b> Blue-collar caveman Fred Flintstone is promoted to manager and gets embroiled in an embezzlement plot. Live-action version of the cartoon comedy, with John Goodman and Rick Moranis.
8.05	<b>That's So 1984.</b> A look at the year that saw the Brighton hotel bombing and Torvill and Dean win gold at the Winter Olympics, as well as hits by Cyndi Lauper and Black Lace. (R)
8.55	<b>5 News Weekend.</b>
9.00	<b>Big Brother.</b> Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.05	<b>OMG.</b> The story of a woman who has made several extreme changes to her body, including amputating a finger. Plus, people with large amounts of body piercing and tattoos.
11.05	<b>FILM: The Vow (2012).</b> A woman wakes up after a car crash with no memory of her husband, who tries to get her to fall in love with him again. Romantic drama, with Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum.
1.05	<b>SuperCasino.</b> Live interactive gaming.
3.10	<b>The Hotel Inspector.</b> Alex Polizzi tackles the Grant Arms Hotel in Ramsbottom, Manchester. (R)
4.00	<b>Britain's Greatest Bridges.</b> (R)
4.50	<b>Great Artists.</b> (R)
5.15	<b>Wildlife SOS.</b> (R)
5.40	<b>Angels of Jarm.</b> (R)
5.50	<b>Roary the Racing Car.</b> (R)

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# Engine for everyone in latest range

By Graham Breeze

Skoda has given the Rapid Spaceback a facelift for 2017 with styling in line with the impressive new Kodiaq and boosted by the arrival of a new 1.0-litre engine.

The Rapid has not been a best-seller for Skoda but things might just improve thanks to the Kodiaq influence, a list of new innovations as long as your arm and a range of impressive engines to choose from.

There's something for everyone in the range from the new 1.0-litre TSi engine with three cylinders to the SE Sport .6TDi SE Sport which we recently put to the test.

The facelift includes new bumpers, re-designed wheels and optional bi-xenon headlights and LED daytime running lights to spice up the package of space and affordability that is always associated with the Rapid range.

The Spaceback is far from the best-looking Skoda on the road but it meets all the requirements for a family with competitive levels of space, plenty of leg and headroom for three seated in the rear and with more than enough room with seats folded down.

Inside the Spaceback you will find many changes. New inlays have been added to the four doors, there are new-look air vents in the dashboard and the instruments and control panel to the air conditioning system have been redesigned.

On the road the ride is smooth enough and even though there's a bit of roll when cornering there's enough grip to give the driver the comfort to take on most bends without too many worries.



The model gets attractive sports seats



There's plenty of room for three in the rear

The 1.6 TDI SE Sport on test came with a five-speed manual box and produced a top speed of 123mph and 0-62mph in 9.9seconds while producing stunning figures of 74.3mpg while emitting only 99g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The model included 17 inch black alloys, a three-spoke leather, multi-function, steering wheel with controls for radio and telephone,

rear parking sensors, Sat Nav, rear spoiler and body coloured mirrors and handles.

One of the better features was the stunning panoramic glass roof and the model also gets sports seats, sunset glass, Bluetooth connectivity, tinted rear lights and even an umbrella under the front passenger's seat.

This model would set you back £18,955 but



The facelift includes new bumpers, re-designed wheels and optional bi-xenon headlights

a boot package, floor mats, rear view camera, SmartLink and a temporary space saver wheel took the price up to £19,590.

If being connected at all times is a must the Skoda Connect system will impress, offering on-line infotainment and a care connect system.

That means hotspot traffic information,

parking updates, current news and weather information alongside a sim-card generated emergency assist system.

Time will tell if Skoda has done enough to make the Rapid Spaceback as popular as other models in the company's growing range of competitive offerings – but you do get a lot of car for your money.

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Chris and Ali Anderson, owners of Chassis 60, with editor David Barzilay at the book launch

## Restored car helps to create manual

The staff at Classic Motor Cars of Bridgnorth (CMC), who restored 1961 Jaguar E-Type Chassis No. 60 owned by Chris Anderson, used the car as the basis of the ultimate E-Type Jaguar restoration manual.

The manual will take the reader through the full nut-and-bolt restoration of a very early example, E-Type Chassis No 60. Skilled mechanics and technicians from world-class restorers CMC have written each chapter, giving a first-hand account of the process with 224 pages and 700 photos showing the level of detail that goes into their award-winning restorations.

The car was the sixtieth E-Type to leave Jaguar's production line in 1961; not only a very early 'flat floor' 3.8 litre model dating from the first few weeks of production, but also one of the earliest surviving right-hand drive E-Type roadsters, and had never been restored. Anderson bought it at auction in 2013 and sent it to CMC to bring it back to the condition that it would have left the factory in 1961.

It took CMC 3,500 hours to restore and since then it has received many awards, including Best of Show at the 2015 RAC Midsummer Drive-In.

David Barzilay, chairman of CMC and editor of the manual, said: "CMC wanted to provide the ultimate E-Type restoration manual and they decided that the best way to do it was to allow individual specialists to write their own chapters."

He added: "We are delighted to have presented the manual at the first ever City Concours at the Honourable Artillery Company headquarters in the heart of the City of London, where Chassis No 60 was on display for two days alongside more than 80 exceptional historic and modern cars."

The E-Type Restoration Manual is available in hardback (£40) format. It can be purchased from www.classic-motor-cars.co.uk/classic-car-parts/books\_63

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## MOTURING

## ROAD TEST



Mazda's new car is heavier than the old one because so much extra sonic deadening has been applied

# Mazda's latest CX-5 offers a touch of class

By Ian Donaldson

MAZDA is launching a stealth attack on the premium SUV sector with its latest CX-5, taking over from the model that was the company's biggest seller in the UK, writes Ian Donaldson.

And the way you convince people your car is a class act is to make it quieter, says the company aiming to take sales away from the likes of VW and, whisper it, even Audi.

So the new car is heavier than the old one, in a world where brownie points are won by making cars lighter, because so much extra sonic deadening has been applied.

Nearly 50kgs, to be precise, or the weight of two extremely heavily loaded suitcases. And what a difference it makes, adding instant hush to a cabin that generates so little racket at speed you might never raise your voice again (except perhaps to tell the kids in the back to quieten down).

This hush-hush push is one of the ways you'll tell new CX-5 from old, and so is the body shape, although you might need to pose both versions side by side to notice.

### Preserve

Every exterior panel has been changed but Mazda has been understandably careful to preserve the lines of a car that sold partly because it looked so good in the first place. It still does, but with thinner LED headlights and sharper creases adding a touch of classy drama.

Inside, all is changed too but Mazda has kept the sense of order you feel in all its cars, so there is a lot of nicely applied blackness, set off a little by a dash insert that looks like the viciously expensive layering of a Japanese knife. It works well and, yes, adds to the premium feel dust Mazda is keen to sprinkle on the newcomer.

Adding class has added to the bottom line too, with prices up and now starting at £23,695 for a slow selling petrol version, a £200 lift. The likely biggest seller, the diesel CX-5 with 150 horsepower engine and front-wheel drive is up £900 and now costs from £25,695. The range tops out at £33,195 for a 175 horsepower car with automatic gears and all-wheel drive in Sport trim.

That is unless you are tempted by one of the pleasantly few options. There is only one non-chargeable paint (a flat white) so any other finish will cost at least £560, with a new version of Mazda's fetching and popular soul red adding a hefty £800.

Beneath the familiar but all-new body beat a trio of engines carried over

MAZDA CX-5 2.2 150PS 2WD SPORT NAV DIESEL, £28,695



### Inside all is changed with a premium feel

from the previous car; a 2.0 litre 165 horsepower petrol unit and a couple of 2.256.5/ litre diesels with either 150 or 175 horsepower.

Their respective CO2 emissions are 149/132/142 g/km and official average fuel consumption 44.1/56.5/52.3 mpg – all as you'd expect and well in line with the opposition.

There are two trim levels, with SE-L Nav offering 17 ins alloys, cruise control, DAB radio and Bluetooth, a navigation system with three years free European map updates and dual-zone climate control.

Move up to Sport Nav and for an extra £3,000 you add 19 ins alloy wheels, reversing camera, powered tailgate, power adjustment for the driver's seat, black leather trim, head up display in the windscreen, heated steering wheel and a glass tilt and slide sunroof on the 175 horsepower model. There's also a 10 speaker Bose sound system, heard all the better in the newly quietened interior.

Tempting options are few but include stone coloured leather in place of black for £200 on Sport Nav models, radar cruise control (£800) and a safety pack (£800) that includes adaptive LED headlights, lane keeping assist (easily switched off it annoys you) and rear cross traffic alert, to warn as you back onto a busy road.

Most drivers will spend their three

years or so with the 150 horsepower diesel doing the donkey work.

They will find it a pleasantly refined companion, only raising its voice when really provoked, which you rarely need to do.

It showed 44mpg on a demanding and briskly driven Scottish test route and a typically Mazda-slick manual gearchange made the car feel even mildly sporty, with a nicely damped ride to go with it.

A more powerful 175 horsepower diesel, driven more gently but with automatic gears, showed the same 44mpg but felt much less responsive than the more modestly powered model. It did feel notably refined and grown up, though.

The much less in demand petrol engine lacked the low down punch of the diesels (as expected, of course) but its lighter front end made the steering usefully more eager and the cabin stayed hushed even when the engine was working hard.

A gentle main road drive ended with the best economy of the lot, at 48mpg.

The diesels would have done better still.

So, a choice of economical engines in a handsome car that drives well and is drawing room quiet inside. No wonder more than half all new Mazdas sold here will be one of them.



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56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Diesel, 1.8 Red Metallic	£2895
06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Active 1.6, low mileage, beautiful car	SOLD
64 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr, Silver	£2495



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Birmingham & District  
Premier Cricket League

First Teams

P	D	T	A	P
Knowle & D.	9	7	0	0
Shrewsbury	9	7	1	0
Berkswell	9	6	0	0
Ombersley	9	6	0	0
WB Dartmouth	9	4	1	0
Kenilworth	9	4	2	0
Walsall	9	3	1	0
Barn Green	9	3	1	0
Dorridge	9	2	0	0
Wolverhampton	9	1	4	0
Kidswinford	9	1	4	0
Brookhampton	9	1	6	0

Division One

P	D	T	A	P
Moseley	9	6	0	2
Stourbridge	9	5	0	3
Tamworth	9	5	0	3
Brighthelm	9	4	1	4
Barnsley	9	4	2	2
Barnsley	9	4	1	0
Barnsley	9	4	1	0
Himley	9	4	1	0
Wellingborough	9	2	0	5
Leamington	9	2	1	5
Attok	9	1	6	0

Division Two

P	D	T	A	P
Forthouses	9	6	0	3
Wombourne	9	5	0	3
C & R Hawks	9	5	0	3
Coverly & N.W.	9	4	2	2
Halesowen	9	4	1	4
Pershore	9	3	2	3
Sutton Coldfield	9	3	2	3
Penkridge	9	2	1	5
Harborne	9	2	2	5
Old Billingham	9	1	2	5
Old Billingham	9	1	2	5

Division Three

P	D	T	A	P
Lichfield	9	6	0	2
Newport	9	6	1	2
Astwood Bank	9	5	0	3
Sentinel	9	4	1	3
Brewdley	9	4	1	3
Stratford-Avon	9	4	0	4
Stretton	9	4	0	4
Milford Hall	9	4	0	5
Acton	9	3	2	3
Worce Nomads	9	2	0	7
Nuneaton	9	0	1	7

Second Teams

P	D	T	A	P
Wolverhampton	9	7	0	1
Walmley	9	6	0	2
Knowle & D.	9	5	1	0
Shifnal	9	5	1	0
Moseley	9	4	2	3
Kenilworth	9	4	1	3
Leamington	9	3	2	3
Himley	9	2	2	4
Brookhampton	9	2	1	6
Acton	9	1	6	0
Halesowen	9	1	6	0

Division One

P	D	T	A	P
Attok	9	4	3	1
WB Dartmouth	9	4	3	1
Coverly & N.W.	9	4	0	4
Old Billingham	9	4	2	2
Ombersley	9	3	2	4
Berkswell	9	3	2	4
Walsall	9	4	0	4
Tamworth	9	2	2	5
Barn Green	9	2	0	4
Brookhampton	9	2	1	4
Smethwick	9	2	1	5

Division Two

P	D	T	A	P
Shrewsbury	9	8	1	0
Newport	9	5	0	4
Forthouses	9	4	2	2
Larwood	9	4	1	1
Penkridge	9	3	1	4
C & R Hawks	9	3	0	4
Milford Hall	9	3	1	3
Brighthelm	9	3	3	0
Sentinel	9	3	1	5
Wellingborough	9	2	1	5
Leamington	9	2	1	5

Division Three

P	D	T	A	P
Wombourne	9	7	0	1
Wellingborough	9	6	0	3
Old Billingham	9	6	0	3
Pershore	9	6	0	3
Stratford-Avon	9	5	0	3
Stretton	9	5	0	3
Handsworth	9	4	0	4
Sutton Coldfield	9	4	0	4
Dorridge	9	4	0	4
Worce Nomads	9	3	0	6
Stourbridge	9	1	0	7
Barnsley	9	0	9	0

Henshalls Shropshire  
County Cricket League

Premier Division

P	D	T	A	P
Whitchurch	9	6	1	1
Ludlow	9	6	1	1
Quatt	9	6	1	1
Brosley	9	5	1	3
Worfield	9	4	2	1
Worfield	9	4	2	1
Newtown	9	5	0	4
St Georges	9	2	2	4
Market Drayton	9	2	2	4
Frankton	9	2	2	4
Mackley	9	2	2	4
Albrighton	9	0	9	0

Division 1

P	D	T	A	P
Bornere Heath	9	7	2	0
Cound	9	8	1	0
Conover	9	6	2	1
Shelton	9	6	2	1
Beacon	9	4	0	4
Knockin & K.	9	3	2	1
Welspool	9	4	2	1
Albrighton	9	4	2	1
Worfield	9	3	0	3
Worfield	9	3	0	3
Forton	9	2	0	5
Lliffel	9	2	0	5

Division 2

P	D	T	A	P
Pontesbury	9	7	1	1
Shifnal	9	7	1	1
Shifnal	9	5	2	0
Ellesmere	9	5	1	2
Wheaton Aston	9	3	2	1
Witley	9	4	1	4
Shrewsbury	9	2	1	2
Bishops Castle	9	2	1	2
Albrighton	9	2	1	2
Church Aston	9	1	2	5
Church Stretton	9	1	6	5

Division 3

P	D	T	A	P
Hodnet, P&T	9	6	2	1
Cae Glas	9	7	0	2
Hangers	9	5	1	2
Iscoyd & FB	9	5	1	3
Ludlow	9	4	0	4
St Georges	9	4	1	3
Much Wenlock	9	4	1	3
Calverhall	9	2	1	5
Chelmarsh	9	2	2	4
Tyke & Seidon	9	2	0	6
Corvedale	9	2	0	6
Acton Reynald	9	1	1	6

Division 4

P	D	T	A	P
Overton-on-Ode	9	5	3	0
Aliscott	9	6	1	2
Bridgnorth	9	6	1	2
Hinstock	9	4	1	3
Leighton	9	4	1	3
Quayside	9	3	1	4
Coton Hall	9	2	0	4
Wroxeter Grove	9	2	1	5
Oswestry	9	1	0	6
Harcourt	9	1	2	4

Second Teams

P	D	T	A	P
Worfield	9	6	0	2
Wem	9	7	1	0
Frankton	9	4	1	4
St Georges	9	3	3	0
Knockin & K.	9	2	3	0
Whitchurch	9	3	0	5
Wroxeter Grove	9	2	1	4
Shelton	9	2	2	3
Albrighton	9	2	2	3
Madley	9	2	0	6
Quatt	9	1	5	2

Division 1

P	D	T	A	P
Beacon	9	7	1	0
Montgomery	9	5	2	1
Shifnal	9	4	4	1
Bornere Heath	9	4	2	3
Lliffel	9	4	2	3
Witley	9	4	2	3
Market Drayton	9	3	2	3
Pontesbury	9	3	2	3
Lliffel	9	3	2	3
Stratford-Avon	9	3	2	3
Stretton	9	3	2	3
Milford Hall	9	3	2	3
Handsworth	9	3	2	3
Worce Nomads	9	2	0	7
Nuneaton	9	0	1	7

Division 2

P	D	T	A	P
Beacon	9	7	1	0
Montgomery	9	5	2	1
Shifnal	9	4	4	1
Bornere Heath	9	4	2	3
Lliffel	9	4	2	3
Witley	9	4	2	3
Market Drayton	9	3	2	3
Pontesbury	9	3	2	3
Lliffel	9	3	2	3
Stratford-Avon	9	3	2	3
Stretton	9	3	2	3
Milford Hall	9	3	2	3
Handsworth	9	3	2	3
Worce Nomads	9	2	0	7
Nuneaton	9	0	1	7

Division 3

P	D	T	A	P
St Georges	9	6	2	1
Shifnal	9	5	1	2
Lliffel	9	4	2	3
Much Wenlock	9	4	1	3
Acton Reynald	9	4	1	3
Quatt	9	3	1	3
Cae Glas	9	3	1	3
Welspool	9	3	1	3
Albrighton	9	2	2	3
Whitchurch	9	2	2	3
Bishops Castle	9	2	0	7
Corvedale	9	1	7	1

Sunday

P	D	T	A	P
Worfield	9	6	1	2
Knockin & K.	9	5	1	3
Wem	9	4	1	3
Newport	9	4	1	3
Frankton	9	4	1	3
Witley	9	3	2	3
Worfield	9	3	1	5
Whitchurch	9	3	1	5
Bornere Heath	9	3	1	5
Worfield	9	3	1	5
Whitchurch	9	3	1	5
Bornere Heath	9	3	1	5

Division 2

P	D	T	A	P
Ludlow	9	6	0	2
Pontesbury	9	5	1	1
Knockin & K.	9	5	1	1
Witley	9	4	1	1
Worfield	9	4	1	1
Whitchurch	9	4	1	1
Worfield	9	4	1	1
Whitchurch	9	4	1	1
Worfield	9	4	1	1
Whitchurch	9	4	1	1
Worfield	9	4	1	1
Whitchurch	9	4	1	1

Marches Cricket  
League

Division 1

P	D	T	A	P
Kingdon	9	6	1	0
Goodrich	9	6	1	0
Garnons	9	5	2	1
Luctonians	9	5	2	1
Woolhope	9	4	3	1
Aberavenny	9	2	5	1
Glanrhydydd	9	2	5	1
Woolhope	9	2	5	1
Dales, Hereford	9	1	6	0

Division 2

P	D	T	A	P
Clebury Mortimer	9	5	2	1
Canon Frome	9	4	2	3
Ross on Wye	9	4	2	3
Garnons	9	4	2	3
Goodrich	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3
Leafield	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3

Division 3

P	D	T	A	P
Strollers, Hereford	9	6	2	0
Talbot-on-Usk	9	4	2	1
Aberavenny	9	4	2	1
Garnons	9	4	2	1
Goodrich	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3
Leafield	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3
Woolhope	9	3	2	3

Division 4

P	D	T	A	P
Herefordians	9	7	0	1
Kingdon	9	5	2	1
Aliscott	9	4	3	1
Bosbury	9	4	3	1
Hay-on-Wye	9	4	3	1
Woolhope	9	3	4	1
Woolhope	9	3	4	1
Woolhope	9	3	4	1
Woolhope	9	3	4	1
Woolhope	9	3	4	1
Woolhope	9	3	4	1



Market Drayton Bowling  
League

Division 1

Division 1			
	P	W	P
Bridgewater A .....	100	64	1892
Nantwich Pk Rd A .....	110	49	1884
Woore A .....	100	69	1863
District A .....	100	61	1845
Adderley A .....	100	53	1811
Hanmer A .....	100	54	1811
A W C .....	100	53	1777
Malpas Spts A .....	100	48	1755
Hodnet A .....	100	44	1731
Childs Ercall A .....	100	50	1717
Malpas Fmrs A .....	100	43	1673

# Promoted Llany are charging up the table

**LLANYMYNECH** A are more than holding their own since their elevation to the top flight of the Oswestry and District Bowling League this season.

And the division one's newcomers showed their good form with a fine 8-2 (161-125) home success over Ruabon A to move up to fifth in the table – just eight points off pole position.

Clive Roberts was the best with a 21-4 card, while youngster Kieran Jones weighed in with a 21-14 success. Victory took Llany to within one point of Ruabon.

**WHITTINGTON** A succumbed 7-3 (142-139) in a nip and tuck affair away to basement side Johnstown B to slip to sixth in the table, four points behind Llanymynech.

Aled Davies continued his fine campaign with a 21-6 victory, his eight success in 10 outings.

Joint leaders Chirk A are top of the tree courtesy of shots after overcoming Johnstown A 6-4 (153-121), while previous leaders Llangollen A slumped 8-2 (152-136) away to defending champions Ceiriog Valley A.

Lowly Corwen A notched a 6-2 (142-125) home win against Flexsys A, while **CRIFTINS** A remain eighth in the table after being without a fixture.

**BLACK LION** kept up the pressure on the leaders in division three with an 8-2 (152-117) home beating of Church C.

Mike Jones led the charge by winning to four, with the in-form Andrew Jones notching his ninth win with a 21-8 card.

Also going well are **CRIFTINS** C who are two points off top spot following their crushing 9-1 (165-83) home win over Llangollen B.

## Church edge away from danger zone

**CHURCH** B leaped clear of the basement pack in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division two courtesy of a resounding 9-1 beating of Ye Olde Crofte.

Emrys Jones led the way to three, while Paul Edwards (21-15) notched the sole reply for the visitors.

**GEORGE**, lying second bottom, edged out previous leaders **WESTON RHYN** A 6-4 and by eight shots (145-137) as they battle to climb the table. Paul Kendrick was a 21-8 winner for George. Rhyn are now down to third in the table.

**LLANRHAEDR** A are up to fourth after sweeping aside **ELLES-MERE** A 9-1 (160-115), Mark Jones (21-5) and Rob Jones (21-9) both single figure winners.

**CHURCH** A are second after being held 5-5 at Plas Kynaston who earned a share of the spoils courtesy of one shot (131-130).

Basement side **WHITTINGTON** B continue to prop up the table despite their 6-4 (139-122) home victory over **LACEY** B.

## Heavy defeat sees Ifton hit rock bottom

**IFTON** slipped to the foot of the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowling League after their poor run continued with a hefty 12-2 loss away to Newport.

The St Martins side mustered just two winners, with Nicky Jones producing the best result of the night in defeating Justin Pegram 21-12.

Darren Lacey was the only other winner as the visitors were well beaten by 68 shots (240-172).

Following the defeat, Ifton are now propping up the table, two points adrift of Bylet, and facing a crunch week with two matches against basement rivals Chester Road who are just five points above them.

First up, they travel to the Roaders on Wednesday night, before host-ing the Whitchurch side on Friday.

# Ladies side net a mixed bag of results

THERE was a mixed bag of results as Oswestry Tennis Club's three ladies teams were locked in some tough matches in the latest round of Shropshire League action.

The third team came away with the best result when sharing a 2-2 draw away to Whitchurch's Hollies Tennis Club's fourth team in the Shropshire Ladies League 6N. In the first round rubbers, the first pair of Jo Dalietos and Liz Newsholme quickly succumbed in the first set 0-6 but fought back to take the second set 6-3.

In the deciding third set tie break points went with serve before the home side just claimed victory 0-1 (8-10).

The second pair of Amanda Coxhead and Carol Slater, who was a last minute replacement for captain Linda Davies, beat the second pair in straight sets 6-3, 6-3. The reverse rubbers were a reflection of the first round with Dalietos and Newsholme winning 7-5, 6-1. Coxhead and Slater narrowly dropped the first set 4-6, but easily took the second 6-1 before losing a third set tie-break 9-11.

Meanwhile, Oswestry's second ladies team lost 3-1 at home to Criftings first team in what proved another closely fought encounter in division 4N.

The first pair of Elspeth Cumpston and Carolyn Yates went down in straight sets 3-6, 5-7 to the visitors' first pair, but were victorious over the second pair 7-6, 6-2.

The second pairing of Rosemary Bennett and Amanda Coxhead struggled against the first pair in the first set before losing 0-6, but gave a better account of themselves in the second before going down 5-7. They also lost in straight sets 3-6, 4-6 to the second pair.

Oswestry's first ladies team came up against their nemesis when they played an away fixture against high flying Shrewsbury's first team in the division one.

Although they played some great tennis with really competitive rallies, the team was unable to secure a rubber when going down in all four.

# TNS kick off title defence at Bangor

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**CHAMPIONS** The New Saints will launch the defence of their Welsh Premier League crown away to old rivals Bangor City in a Friday night curtain-raiser.

The Saints, under the new management team of Scott Ruscoe and Steve Evans following Craig Harrison's departure to Hartlepool, will be chasing a record seventh successive league title, and 12th in all this term.

First up will be their trip to the north Wales coast on Friday, August 11, for what promises to be a tough start to the campaign against a Bangor side who ran out 3-0 winners when the sides last met at the end of last season.

TNS, who are again in action in the UEFA Champions League this summer, make their first appearance at Park Hall the following Saturday (August 19) when they entertain Bala Town in an encounter to be televised live on S4C.

Then on Friday, August 25, the Saints make the trip to league newcomers Barry Town United.

They face a trip to local rivals Newtown on Boxing Day, while the two sides again meet on New Year's Day, this time at Park Hall.

Newtown, who enjoyed a terrific run of form in the second half of last season, also start with a Friday night fixture when they head to Bala Town on August 11. It is the second season in a row that they have started against the Lake-siders.

Their first appearance at Latham Park is the following Friday (August 18) when they welcome Cefn Druids

Meanwhile, newly-promoted Barry Town United and Prestatyn Town have both been handed home fixtures on the opening weekend of the new Welsh Premier League season.

The Dragons will host Aberystwyth Town, who narrowly avoided the drop last term, live on S4C while the Seaside's have a home fixture with Connah's Quay Nomads.

In a new development, a number of games will be shown on Facebook Live on Thursday nights during the season.

The first two confirmed matches will feature Llandudno v Prestatyn on September 7 and Barry Town United v Carmarthen Town on September 21.

Meanwhile, former TNS forward Jamie Reed cannot wait to get out on the pitch and get among the goals for his new club Newtown.

The striker, who has also played for Wrexham, York City and Bangor City, is raring to go, adding: "Newtown is a good club, a solid club that has done well in the league in the last few years. They have exceeded expectations really.

"I've played against them a number of times and I

## Wynnstay enjoy their away day



THE weather wasn't brilliant – but all players rose to the occasion when Llansantffraid Bowling Club played host to Oswestry's Wynnstay Bowling Club. The score of 77 to the home team and 57 to the Wynnstay Club didn't reflect the enthusiasm all players pumped into the clash – and it all ended in harmony with tea and cakes in the Llansantffraid clubhouse. Action on the Llansantffraid green. ■ Picture by Wynnstay's President Pat McDonald.

feel it is somewhere I can get chances and get a few goals.

"I think everyone just wants to do well this season. We'll take one game at a time and see where it takes us.

"The main aim is top six and Europe, and if we get that we can give ourselves a pat on the back."

# Busy New Saints tackle Scottish duo

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

It was an exciting prospect for the management team of Scott Ruscoe and Steve Evans who now have the task of filling the shoes of previous boss Craig Harrison.

"Every year we look to improve on every aspect of our game and preparation," said Ruscoe who himself has played 30 times in Europe.

"That hasn't just happened overnight, that's been the case in the past 16 years or so that I've been at the club, and if we're prepared then our players can be at their maximum and give anyone a tough game."

Having recently joined Hartlepool as manager, Harrison made a point of attending this week's game - and has kept in close contact with TNS since his departure.

"We had a good working relationship over the last five and a half years, and we still keep in touch. I speak to him every couple of days and it's great he will be at the game," added Ruscoe.

"To have a Champions League game as your first competitive game as manager is a very proud moment, and we're looking forward to the tie massively."

The 11-times Welsh Premier champions were at full strength and included new signings, defender Blaine Hudson, and midfielder Matt Holland, in the squad along with TNS academy player Ben Clark who has impressed since stepping up to the first team.

Goalkeeper Paul Harrison was making his 31st appearance in Europe, overtaking Ruscoe who has played 30 times.

But he will still be two games behind former TNS defender Phil Baker who has 33 - a record for the Welsh league. Left back Chris Marriott will be playing his 23rd game in Europe.

The winners of the tie will meet Croatian champions HNK Rijeka in the second qualifying round.

FC Europe have dominated football in Gibraltar last season, lifting the premier division title while also winning the 2017 Rock Cup and Pepe Reyes Cup to complete a treble.

■ The away leg will be played in Portugal as UEFA has barred teams from playing European fixtures at Europa's multi sport Victoria Stadium after the pitch failed its assessment.

# The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

**HENLLE PARK**  
Captain's Day: Gary Owen 32pts (cb); Tony Davies 32pts; Andy Patterson 31pts. Nearest the Pin: Terry Gleave. Longest Drive: Tony Meehan.

**Dave Salter 9 Hole Comp (7th June):** Mark Pritchard 21pts; Alun Richards 20pts; D S Jones 19pts (cb); (14th June): Tom Milne 20pts; Cass Bothwell 19pts (cb); Mike A Jones 19pts.

**Lady Captain's Day:** Viv Davies 36pts; Di Edwards 32pts; Dawn Lawlor 29pts. Nearest the Pin: Ellie Potts. Longest Drive: Viv Davies.

**Medal & Ritchie Salver:** Kathy Evans nett 80; Anne Marie Stott nett 83.

**Seniors' Open 4883 Stableford:** Wynn Jones & John Adams (Ludlow Golf Club); Bill Mackenzie & Hayden Price (Henlle Park); Tony Price & Williams Jones; Tony Davies & Robin Powell (Henlle Park). Longest Drive: Dave Rogers. Nearest the Pin: Graham Roberts (Meole Brace Golf Club).

**Medal Division 1:** Andy Patterson 69pts; Chris Andrews 70pts (cb); Division 2: Gordon Cummings 75pts; Cyril Baldwin 76pts.

**HILL VALLEY**  
**4883 (Eneraldi):** S Coupe & S Tamura 42pts; S DeBarro & G Thomas 39pts; S Wynn & S Lockett 38pts.

**Sue & Fred Higgs Trophy:** G Ellwood 35pts (22); J Wruszek 32pts (30); G Thomas 31pts (19).

**LLANYMYNECH**  
**Ladies' Croft Stableford Winner:** Tanya Cook 39pts, Runner-up: Bev Cadwallader 36pts.

**Nine Hole Stableford Winner:** Rachel Pritchard 18pts, Runner-up: Janet Jones 12pts.

**MILE END**  
**Walker Bowl Winners:** Janice Turner & Janet Bennett 41pts, Runners-up: Anna Pugh & Sue Robson 40pts.

**Club Social:** Angela Eke, Keith Evans, Rob Crocutt, Mike Tisdall, David Jones, Paul Eke, Barry Lingard 39pts; Jenny Cattaneo, Dave Smith, Adam Turner 37pts.

**Seniors' Championships Gross Winner:** Tony Easthope 82, Runner-up: Dave Smith 83, Third: Gordon Jamieson 83. Nett Winner: John Hunter 85-19-66, Runner-up: John Roberts 93-25-68, Third: Tony Easthope 82-13-69.

**THE BROW**  
**Midweek Stableford:** Mike McKay 41pts; Keith Abbott 40 (on back 9); Peter Barker 40; John Youens 35.

**Midsummer Madness:** Peter Barker 36pts (on back 9); Keith Abbott 36; Mike Clark 35; Paul Shore 33.

**THE WREKIN**  
**Parton Jamieson Cup (Round 6 of 6) 15 Hole Medal:** Saz Basra 47/9; Mick Perks 53/13; Trevor Kirk 54/9.

# Breeze still too hot with another win

A GOOD turnout of 34 riders warmed to the challenge on a sunny but blustery evening for round seven of the Oswestry Paragon time trials series.

Howard Lewis, of Mid Shropshire Wheelers, won in 20mins 44secs for the second time this year.

Simon Lewis, of NFTO, knocked another two seconds off his course best to come home second in 22.18.

Third place went to newcomer Angelo DeRosa, of Graham Weigh Cycles, who crossed the line in 22.58.

There was a close battle between two Mid Shropshire Wheelers juniors for fifth and sixth place with Kieran Morris (23.23) coming out ahead of Ben Pierce (23.41).

There was also a hard-fought battle for maximum points in the competition to be fastest Paragon rider with Chris Evans (23.48) edging out Tom Richardson (23.54) and Neil Coles (24.02).

Liz Breeze continued to extend her lead in the Paragon ladies series after finishing in 30.11.

# Monty's hot shots bring trophy home

THE hot shots of the Montgomeryshire & District Airgun League select team find their way to the West Midland Knockout trophy with victory over the Shrewsbury League in the final at Broseley.

The anticipation was of a very competitive final with two neighbouring leagues going head to head, and it did not disappoint with a terrific standard of shooting.

With high scoring by both teams, it wasn't until the last few shots were fired that the outcome became clear, with victory going to Montgomeryshire with a combined score of 208 to Shrewsbury's 201.3.

Richard Morgan (35.4), Joe Hilditch (35.5) and Paul Gwilliam (35.2) all scored possibilities for the Monty team, secured possibilities for the

## Knockin's Slam hopes dashed in last eight

IT WAS the end of the road for Knockin & Kinnerley in the Shropshire League's Senior Slam as they slumped to a 124-run quarter-final defeat to Wem.

Opting to bat first, Wem were soon peppering the boundary as they rattled up a mammoth 213-4 in their 20 overs, with skipper Matthew Cohen hammering 59 and Sam Peate an unbeaten 40.

Despite an unbeaten 51 from Steven Gray at the top of the order in reply, Knockin never got to grips with the chase as they were sent back for just 89 in 16 overs, Ned Absalom doing the damage with 5-15 off four overs.

But a few days later they put the defeat behind them in fine style with a thrilling six run victory over Lilleshall to boost their prospects in the Henshalls Shropshire League division one.

Electing to bat first, Gray continued his good form with 67 to help Knockin to 214 all out in 41 overs at the Nursery Ground, Jak Jones also weighing in with 34 while Thomas Mackerel picked up 3-29 for the visitors.

Oli Todd's 91 kept Lilleshall in the hunt in reply, but his efforts were to no avail as his side fell six runs short on 208-8 in 45 overs as Liam Tucker grabbed 4-40 in nine overs.

**KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II** took their season's points haul past the century mark in the 2nd XI League division one with victory over Madeley II.

Pete Ogden hit 42 before Paul Holyoake (38no) and Floyd Owen (28no) helped Knockin recover from 123-8 to post 198-8 in 45 overs.

The late run spree was to prove crucial as Madeley were shot out for 180 in reply, Floyd Owen taking 4-39.

**FRANKTON** eased their basement worries in the Shropshire League's premier division with a welcome three wicket win at Albrighton to pick up 20 points.

Put in to bat, Albrighton were dismissed for a challenging 213 in the 43rd over, thanks largely to 96 from opener Ismail Anwar. After losing three batsmen with less than 50 on the board, Frankton got over the line.

# Fynn spin sees side rattle off win No 8

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

**OSWESTRY'S** bandwagon continues to roll after reeling off an eighth victory in the Birmingham Cricket League division two to move 43 points clear at the top.

The Morda Road men have been in unstoppable form, and underlined their credentials yet again when sweeping aside Pershore by 95 runs last weekend.

In-form batsman Warrick Fynn again produced a match defining display – but this time it was with the ball in which he made a telling impact.

Fynn's spin bowling, together with that of fellow left-armers Mark Robinson, proved the decisive factor as Oswestry put paid to Pershore on a turning wicket.

Pershore had reached 61-0 in reply to Oswestry's 215-7, and looked on course to make a decent fist of chasing their target.

But within a couple of overs of Fynn and Robinson coming into the attack, the home side had collapsed to 68-7.

They were eventually bowled out for 120, with Fynn taking 5-27 and Robinson 3-36.

Earlier, Oswestry's star performer with the bat had been skipper Robbie Clarke, who hit a superb 84 before being run out with a few balls left of the innings.

Fynn (29) and Joe Carrasco (27) had shared another half-century opening stand before Clarke took charge, and Dean Suter hit 37 off 33 balls to boost the total near the end.

Next up for Oswestry is a home game on Saturday (midday) with second-placed Cordhouses, who lost by 10 wickets to Sutton Coldfield on Saturday.

**OSWESTRY II** threw away a great chance of winning at Morda Road when they failed to chase down a modest target set by visitors Newport.

### Top-scored

Chris Woodcock took 4-44, Alex Selby 2-16 and Roman Walker 2-44 as Newport were bowled out for 175, former first-team skipper Paul Furniss top-scoring with 84.

Four Oswestry batsmen passed 20 when they replied, but no-one stayed in long enough to guide them to victory as they were bowled out for 160.

Matt Whithread top-scored with 38, Dave Shaw hit 35, Ricky Martoccia 29 and Woodcock 21.

**OSWESTRY III** sent a below-strength side to Llanidloes, and were duly beaten by 142 runs in the Shropshire League division four.

Dave Moody led the way with 76 not out as Llanidloes ran up 249-5 in their 40 overs.

Skipper James Bradbury made an unbeaten 47 when Oswestry's turn came to bat, but they were bowled out for 107.

Oswestry's fourth string also came off second best when they took on Shrewsbury Fourth's at Morda Road in the Sunday League division two.

A magnificent unbeaten 150 by Matthew Wear saw Shrewsbury to a colossal 291-4 from their 40 overs, with Ben Wilson taking two wickets.

Owen Aspinall made a fine 66 for Oswestry, but Graeme Boyd (22) was the only other batsman to pass 20 as they were bowled out for 155.

On Saturday, Oswestry II visit their Fordhouses counterparts, the thirds take on Harcourt at Oswestry School (1pm), while Oswestry IV visit Pontesbury III on Sunday.

## Blake races to Park Hall 5k win



Oswestry Olympian runners Yvonne Hill and Tania Brandon in the Park Hall 5k. ■ Pic: Jon Hancock.

OLLIE Blake flew the flag in fine style with an impressive victory in the Park Hall 5k which attracted a terrific entry of 175 runners from Shropshire and local counties.

On a glorious evening, there were some excellent individual results and times, including Oswestry Olympian Blake who was first home in a time of 15.59, followed closely by Gareth Williams and M16 runner Ethan Ackroyd of West Cheshire Harriers.

The first lady to finish was unattached runner Leonie Keeling in the F35.

**Results:** 1 Ollie Blake 15:59, 2 Gareth Williams unattached 16:03, 3 Ethan Ackroyd of W Cheshire Harriers 16:54.

**Oswestry Olympian results:** 12 - 17:53 Tom Heard; 13 - 17:56 Simon Barkley 1st M40; 15 - 18:20 Peter Jones 2nd M40; 17 - 18:31 Tim Tansley 3rd M40; 18 - 18:39 Matthew Collins 1st M14; 19 - 18:46 Mark Jones Unaffiliated 1st M50; 24 - 18:13 Keith Sylvester Shropshire Shufflers 1st M55; 25 - 19:20 Richard Davies; 27 - 19:24 Charlie Woodcock; 28 - 19:37 Dave Newton 2nd M50; 29 - 19:43 Ashley Lindop; 36 - 20:27 Darnell Walsh; 37 - 20:35 Steve Roberts 1st M60;

44 - 21:00 Sean Butler 3rd M55; 45 - 21:02 Tammy Lewis Jones Eryn Harriers 2nd F 1st F45; 48 - 21:29 John Snell; 49 - 21:30 Louise Woolcock 2nd F35; 51 - 21:36 Nick Blake; 53 - 21:49 David Hughes; 60 - 22:32 Owen Williams 1st M17; 61 - 22:45 Rhianon Tansley 1st M14; 63 - 22:58 Yvonne Hill 1st F50; 65 - 23:11 Tanya Brandon 2nd F50; 66 - 23:13 Stephen Nicholls; 68 - 23:15 Susie Hancock 1st f55; 73 - 23:26 Ashland Donohoe-Harrison; 82 - 24:12 Jude Hughes 3rd F40; 85 - 24:24 Julie Lloyd Evans 3rd F45; 86 - 24:27 Ray Pickett; 87 - 24:52 Katie Jones; 90 - 25:12 Liz Park; 91 - 25:12 Ellen Harrison 1st F60; 98 - 25:57 Tracey Passmore; 107 - 27:13 Seren Armstrong; 113 - 27:26 Mary Thornton; 126 - 28:47 Tina Powell; 131 - 29:40 Vicky Braune; 134 - 29:57 Annabel Bullen 2nd F17; 151 - 34:09 Ian Lowe; 159 - 36:21 Sarah Robert.

# Glas suffer heavy defeat in top test

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

with 30.

Hodnet's bowling attack shared the wickets with the impressive Barry Managh the pick in taking 2-15.

In response, and with such a small total to defend, the Glas needed early wickets if they were to have any chance of winning the match.

Unfortunately, the only wicket to fall came with 45 runs on the board as Hodnet skipper Kev George (53no) and Harry Feaz (26no) guided the hosts to a comfortable win in the 19th over.

Gary Davies was the sole wicket taker (1-38). It was a disappointing outcome for Cae Glas who will be out to make a swift riposte at home to Ludlow III on Saturday.

They have now lost pole position to Hodnet who are four points clear act the summit after their victory.

**CAE GLAS II** came close to halting leaders Beacon III in the Shropshire 2nd XI League division three before being edged out by just five runs in a

tight finish at Gatacre.

The Shrewsbury visitors were restricted to 153-8 in their 40 overs,

before the Glas finished on 148-8 in reply.

Nathan Bartram bowled with accuracy and pace to take 2-16, and at drinks Beacon were 53-3.

Despite a flurry of scoring soon after, Cae Glas worked hard to keep the runs down, and took vital wickets including a run out from Tim Smith who produced a direct hit with just one stump to aim at.

Beacon ended up on 153-8 with Craig Stockman top scoring on 66, mostly in boundaries, while Dave Edwards chipped in with 2-38 for the Glas.

Although they lost an early wicket, Glas moved serenely onto 90-1, but once Ben Hipkiss (53) and Tim Smith (28) were out, runs became harder to come by.

The middle order scraped a few, and some mighty blows from Alex Carter who hit 21, including a shot-of-the-day six over midwicket left them needing 12 off three overs.

However, in a tense climax, Beacon's opening bowlers came back to finish their spells and left Cae Glas five runs adrift.

## Weekend's Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list

### Saturday

#### Premier Division

Quatt v St Georges; Market Drayton v Broseley; Madeley v Worfield; Wem v Albrighton; Frankton v Ludlow; Whitchurch v Newtown.

#### Division One

Montgomery v Conover; Wroxeter Grove v Knockin & Kinnerley; Lilleshall v Beacon; Bomere Heath v Shelton; Welshpool v Cound; Forton v Alberbury.

#### Division Two

Allscott v Shifnal 3; Willey v Church Aston; Church Stretton v Shrewsbury 3; Pries v Bishop's Castle; Wellington 3 v Pontesbury; Wheaton Aston v Ellesmere.

#### Division Three

Chelmarsh v Much Wenlock; Acton Reynald v St Georges 3; Corvedale v Hodnet; Peplow & Tibberton; Cae Glas v Ludlow 3; Iscoyd & Fenns Bank v Harpers; Trysull & Seisdon v Calverthall.

#### Division Four

Bridgnorth 3 v Gulsfield; Hinstock v Overton on Dee; Coton Hall v Quayside; Wroxeter Grove 3 v Llanidloes; Oswestry 3 v Harcourt.

#### Second Teams

#### Division One

Knockin & Kinnerley 2 v Wroxeter Grove 2; Alberbury 2 v Whitchurch 2; Cound 2 v Frankton 2; Shifnal 2; Wem 2; Worfield 2; Madeley 2; St Georges 2 v Quatt 2.

#### Division Two

Iscoyd & Fenns Bank 2 v Conover 2; Beacon 2 v Montgomery 2; Ludlow 2 v Market Drayton 2; Newtown 2 v Bomere Heath 2; Shifnal 4 v Lilleshall 2; Pontesbury 2 v Wellington 4; Albrighton 2 v Forton 2; Broseley 2 v Willey 2.

#### Division Three

Allscott 3 v Welshpool 2; Beacon 3 v Corvedale 2; Bishops Castle 2 v Cae Glas 2; Ellesmere 2 v Lilleshall 4; Much Wenlock 2 v Quatt 3; St Georges 4 v Acton Reynald 2.

### Sunday

#### Division One

Knockin & Kinnerley 3 v Lilleshall 3; Senti-nel 3 v Newport 3; Frankton 3 v Wellington 5; Cound 3 v Worfield 3; Alberbury 3 v Wem 3; Whitchurch 3 v Bomere Heath 3.

Division Two: Shrewsbury 4 v Madeley 4; Pontesbury 3 v Oswestry 4; Wellington 6 v Market Drayton 3; Madeley 3 v Bridgnorth 4; Ludlow 4 v Knockin & Kinnerley 4.

## Mitchell hits super ton in Ellesmere win

JONATHAN Mitchell cracked a century as Ellesmere gave their promotion hopes a boost in the Shropshire League division two with a convincing seven wicket win at Shifnal III.

Shifnal elected to bat first on winning the toss, with several batsmen failing to build on starts as they were bowled out for 167 in 40 overs, Gary Davies top scoring with 40 before being run out.

Kieran Barry took 3-43 from eight overs, and Rajinder Singh Saggu chipped in with 2-19 off eight.

Mitchell then took centre stage with an unbeaten 108 at the top of the order, guiding his side to their target in 33.1 overs with Felix Ashley (29) and Singh Saggu (31no) providing useful support.

**ELLESMERE II** lost ground in the 2nd XI League division three after being thumped by 192 runs at home to Much Wenlock II.

The runs flowed as Wenlock amassed 334-1 in 40 overs, Will Sharpe playing 145 not out, Dean Barnett exactly 100 and Louis Irvine an unbeaten 70. A shellshocked Ellesmere slumped to 142 all out in 37 overs in reply, Ryan Newton top scoring on 32 while Andrew Marlow snapped up 4-18 for the visitors.

## Kerry boss named top for season

KERRY boss Joe Andrew, whose side won the Spar Mid Wales League second division crown, has been named the division's manager of the season.

Barriew front runner Karl Seliaerts has scooped the player of the season award in division one.

Seliaerts, who netted 24 league and cup goals to finish third in the scoring charts, helped the Rhiewsid-ers to a third place finish on their return to the division while they also landed the league cup. He picked up his award at the league's annual meeting while team-mate Richard Davies collected the top scorer honour after netting 36 times.

## Monty march on with super home victory

MONTGOMERY maintained their upturn in fortunes in the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division one with a 94-run beating of Wroxeter Grove.

After a sticky start to the campaign, newly promoted Monty have turned it around in recent weeks and continued their momentum by brushing aside their visitors in fine style.

Put in to bat, they racked up 235-9 in 45 overs, Aaron Ruff-Cock giving his side a fine start with 51 along with fellow opener Andrew Barker (28).

James Corfield continued their momentum with 65 at four before being run out while Ieuan Griffiths also weighed in with 29.

Despite a late flurry of wickets, it still proved a daunting total as Wroxeter soon found themselves in trouble in reply.

Rory Hawes provided the only real resistance with 60 along with Charlie Haylett (32) as the visitors were sent back for 141 in the 35th over.

Corfield made it a memorable day by taking 4-10 off 7.4 overs, his efforts helping to push Monty closer to mid-table.

**MONTGOMERY II** continue to go well in the 2nd XI League division two after dominating their encounter away to Iscoyd & Fenns Bank to pick up 18 points.

Bating first, the promotion chasers piled up 250-6 in 40 overs, with Charles John Clinton smashing an unbeaten 108. Fenns Bank never suggested they could chase down the target, but held out for a losing draw by finishing on 137-6 at the close with two wickets apiece for David Jones and Clinton.

# Sport

**Athletics**  
Olympians race to  
Park Hall joy – P39

**Cricket**  
Local sides under  
spotlight – P39



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## Katie wins a medal double at Euro event



Katie Roberts with her trophies

YOUNGSTER Katie Roberts secured a terrific martial arts triumph after taking on the very best in Europe in an international event held in Germany.

Representing WKU Team England, the 12-year-old Welshpool High School student proved to be one of the stars of the show, claiming gold in the Technical Kata and the title of WKU European Champion, and also silver in the Free-style Kata.

This success now gives the Trewern youngster automatic qualification into the WKU World Championships to be held in Ireland in August.

Katie, a second Dan brown belt is a member of Oswestry-based MD Warriors, part of the Kross Bros Martial Arts Community, and is vice captain of their team.

"This was Katie's first international tournament, so to come home with two medals and the crown of European WKU Champion exceeded all our expectations," said thrilled parents Mark and Donna.

"Everyone in the family is very proud of Katie, and her success is fully deserved for all the dedication and hard work she has shown over the last four years.

"Our thanks must go to her wonderful coaches, family and sponsors without whom she could never have got this far."

Katie added: "I'm very proud to have won these trophies, but also proud of all our Kross Bros team who were there with me who also did fantastic.

"I will now continue the hard work and improve even further in preparation for the World Championships."

Anyone who would like to sponsor Katie in her quest to World glory, please contact her Parents Mark and Donna Roberts on 01938-8570112 or her grandparents Glyn and Vera Roberts on 01938-810665. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

## Hot-shot Adele is British U23 champ

SHOT putter Adele Nicoll picked up her 12th British age group title when leading the way in the British under-23 championships in Bedford.

A week after claiming the Welsh crown, the Welshpool athlete continued her good form with a winning throw of 16.24 – just 10cm short of her personal best – as she looks to maintain her pursuit of a Commonwealth Games place.

## Morda Road men want more of same

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

and the league leaders will want to continue their winning ways against second placed Fordhouses.

The visitors have also been in impressive form this season, but suffered a crushing nine wicket loss to Sutton Coldfield last weekend after being dismissed for just 76.

By contrast, Oswestry again showed their winning resolve by dismissing Pershore for 120 in response to 215-7 on a turning wicket.

"Saturday is going to be a huge game, and

hopefully the weather is good and we'll get a good crowd to watch it," said captain Robbie Clarke who has batsman Alun Morris back in contention.

"A win would be massive, but we know we've got to keep working hard. Fordhouses didn't pick up a point last week, but they are a decent team and we're expecting a tough game.

"But the pleasing thing is that everyone's chipping in for us, which is the sign of a good side.

"It was a spinner's paradise at the weekend. We thought we'd got a good score – fortunately we were right, and it was a comfortable win in the end."

## Atherton is back in the saddle again

RACHEL Atherton will hope to get back to business when the UCI downhill Mountain Bike World Cup series resumes in Andorra this weekend.

The reigning World downhill champion has missed the last two races through injury to dent hopes of retaining her crown, so will be desperate to return to action to rekindle her challenge.

After a flying start to the season, the Llanrhaeadr ace saw her record breaking run come to an end after suffering a dislocated shoulder during a practice run in Fort William in Scotland.

Hopes of getting back in the saddle for the third race in the series in Leogang, Austria, were again dashed through the injury – leaving the 29-year-old 345 points behind series leader Tracey Hannah.

"I was totally gutted not to be racing the third race of the World Cup in Leogang," said the former Marches School pupil.

"My shoulder was feeling pretty good considering but just not totally ready to race yet.

"I didn't want to risk more serious damage to an already delicate shoulder so I decided to use my head and not my heart."

But Atherton hopes to be fully fit for when the UCI World Cup resumes in Vallnord, Andorra this weekend, but now faces a massive task if she is to keep hold of her crown.

She was back on the bike last week and said: "I can't wait to be back at the World Cup races instead of watching at home on TV!"

In her absence, Tahnee Seagrave won her first ever UCI World Cup round with a stunning ride in Leogang.

## Town back with a Park Hall friendly

HAVING been back in training for three weeks, FC Oswestry Town embark on their first friendly against the Liver Vaults Academy at Park Hall on Saturday (3pm).

The visitors, from Liverpool, arrive in buoyant mood after winning the BT Sports Pub Cup in the final at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium last month.

For Town, it will be a chance for the management team of Richard Williams-Cooke and Ryan Butcher to run the rule over a raft of new signings.

Further new faces could be finalised this week and it is hoped to have a 22-man squad in place when the North West Counties League division one season gets underway on August 12.

Town's second pre-season game is another home fixture against Middlewich Town on Saturday July 8 (3pm), before visiting Chester Nomads the following Saturday for a 10.30am kick off.

"We don't know much about Liver Academy, but it is a chance to have a blow out and for players to get minutes under their belt," said Butcher.

**ST MARTINS**, back in training this week, open their pre-season with a friendly at Market Drayton Town on Tuesday, July 11 as they gear up for the West Midlands League division one.

The Saints then travel over the border to face Guilsfield on Tuesday, August 1, before the league campaign starts on Saturday, August 5.

# SAINTS SUFFER EARLY SETBACK

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**THE New Saints were left with plenty to ponder after their chances of progressing in the UEFA Champions League receded following a shock first leg defeat against FC Europa.**

Goals in each half from Alex Quillo and Kike Gomez earned the men from Gibraltar a priceless 2-1 victory in first qualifying round tie at Park Hall.

And it leaves the Welsh Premier champions with a battle on their hands if they are to avoid an early exit when they head to Portugal for Tuesday's return leg.

Manager Scott Ruscoe admitted his side fell below their usual standards, often struggling to get into their stride on a frustrating night.

"I'm disappointed because that's not a true reflection of how TNS play and how we've done in Europe over the last few years," he said.

"The Champions League is what we strive to play in year after year, and I've talked about how we've gradually improved over the years. Maybe you could say we froze, but just didn't play our normal game and fell below our peak. The players have another 20 or 30 per cent.

"So I've told the lads it hurts me, and I hope it hurts them because they've not shown a true reflection of how they can play.

"We'll work on the things that we didn't do well. We'll put them right over the next few days and we'll make sure we give it a good go next Tuesday."

The Saints could take some heart from a terrific strike from Scott Quigley to level matters just before half time, but for most part they toiled to find a way through a well marshalled FC Europa side.

It proved a difficult night from the moment Quillo gave the treble winning Gibraltarians an eight minute lead.

Clear cut chances were few and far between, but the Saints were back on terms a minute before half time when Quigley lashed an angled shot past keeper Javi Munoz after flicking the ball past a defender.

However, FC Europa were to have the last word



Scott Quigley levels for The New Saints in the Champions League qualifier. Pic: Alan Evans.

as they grabbed a crucial second goal 12 minutes from time when Gomez curled the ball past Paul Harrison from 15 yards following Liam Walker's incisive break. It could have been worse had Europa sub Kike Carreno not lobbed against the bar two minutes from time, but TNS still have a big task to avoid an early exit in next week's return leg in Faro, Portugal.

They have reached the second qualifying round for the past five seasons, and will need to score at least twice if they hope to turn the tie around and set up a meeting with Croatian champions HNK Rijeka in the next stage.

In their first action since the departure of man-

ager Craig Harrison to Hartlepool, it was not the result or performance that they had craved for on Europe's biggest stage.

But FC Europe, the Gibraltar domestic treble winners, should take credit from their display, strong defensively and in midfield, while looking quick to counter whenever their opponents lost possession.

TNS, who went into the game without injured left back Chris Marriott, should have been level on 24 minutes when Europa keeper Javi Munoz failed to deal with Ryan Brobbel's corner from the left but Adrian Cieslewicz pulled his shot wide from 12 yards.

## Membership available now

For more details please contact the secretary John Evans (Secretary)

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Published by the Oswestry Chronicle and printed by Shropshire Newspapers Limited, Ketley, Telford. Registered at the P.O. as a newspaper. Price when sold 70p

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